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editorial

FOR 120 YEARS Norfolk has been largely left alone, and has had to develop its own life-style, suited to the realities of a small mid-Pacific island and suited to the beliefs of the people who have lived here.

It is quite different from the life-style that has developed in large countries with large cities. It is a life-style built on individual self-reliance, on community co-operation, on low taxes and small government, and on simple laws. We don't lock our doors. We have no real gaol.

Tens of thousands of visitors to Norfolk have been charmed by the Island's way of life. They say Norfolk has been able to preserve something precious that the rest of the world has lost and wishes it could regain.

This life-style is now in real danger of being legislated out of existence, because of the recommendations of a Judge who has never lived here and will probably never come back. He says we should be required to have more big-government handouts, have big-government policies laid down for us, have big-government taxes and have a whole library of complicated laws enacted by people many of whom don't even know where Norfolk Island is.

He does not think the people of Norfolk Island should have any say in whether these changes are made or not. He says our opinions are merely "subjective" - while his are "objective". He says we shouldn't be allowed a Referendum because we are not competent to think clearly.

He says Australia has the right to change our life any way it likes because Australia has to spend \$2.5 million every year to sustain us. He got that

impression by mis-hearing the testimony of a senior civil servant. He either did not hear, or disregarded, the testimony of the Norfolk Island Council that the \$2.5 million figure was mistaken. Perhaps he thought Council's evidence was merely subjective, and that a high figure would be objective.

Most people in Australia know little and care less about Norfolk Island. They are caught in a big-government life-style and probably think it is only fair that everyone else should be too. But every one of the eight elected representatives of the people of Norfolk Island says the Nimmo Report, unless it is changed in major ways, will harm the Island.

BEING REALISTIC, the wishes and rights of the 1600 people on Norfolk cannot be expected to matter greatly to people in Australia. But they are practical people who can understand dollars and cents.

Tourism is the only industry Norfolk Island has. Our tourist industry is barely able to compete, right now, with other tourist destinations. The Nimmo Report would make our tourist industry less able to compete.

The head of our Tourist Board estimated that tourist costs on the Island might go up about 30% if the Nimmo plans are pushed through. It could be more: ocean freight, which brings in most of what tourists consume here, would probably increase to about three times the present rate.

What effect would a 30% cost increase have on our tourist trade? The head of the largest Norfolk travel agency in Australia has considered that question and says: "It would be dramatic. There is no way we could sell it to the Australian people."

DO YOU REALLY want us to give up our life-style and conform with yours, Australia? Do you really want it badly enough to undermine our only economic industry?



DECEMBER WAS REMARKABLE on Norfolk Island, with almost daily developments and announcements indicating how the Nimmo Report

might affect the Island.

Early uncertainty about the recommendations continued in the first days of the month, with many on Norfolk (including most Councillors) waiting to see how others felt, after studying the Report.

That hesitancy changed to alarm as it began to look as if the Report were not merely a proposal, but a set of actions to be taken promptly.

The attitudes of a great many on the Island were suddenly clarified by President of Committees Bill Blucher's taking a strong stand on the Report. In a long speech that was quickly circulated, he said the Report was built on a false assumption and called for it to be "laid aside" in planning Norfolk's future.

Council met on the 1st, 10th, 16th and 22nd.

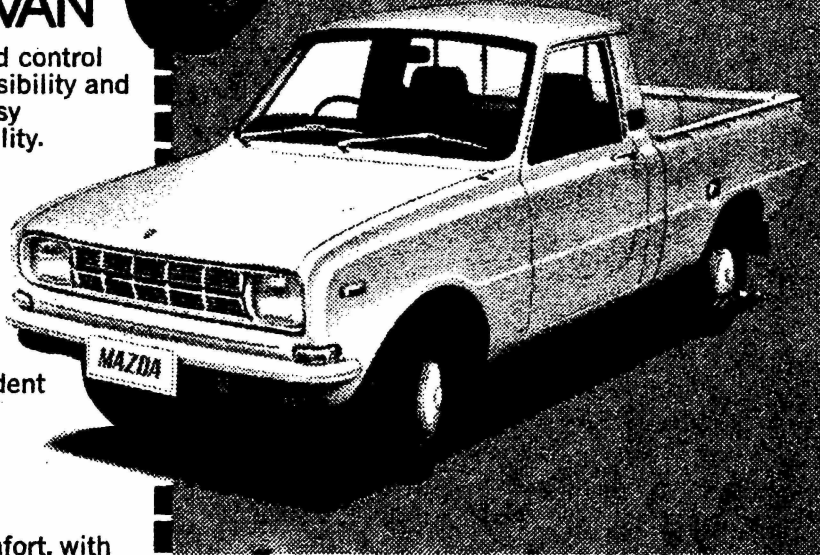
At the meeting on the 16th there developed something close to a confrontation between Council and the Administrator - with Mr. O'Leary seeming to take a strongly pro-Nimmo position, and Council becoming increasingly adamant that Sir John's Report would force unwanted and damaging changes on Norfolk.

But by the 22nd the seeming confrontation had been resolved, with the Administrator supporting Council's request that the Report be held in suspense while Council worked on a more suitable solution for the Island's governmental problems. The meeting ended with pleasant Christmas & New Year's wishes all



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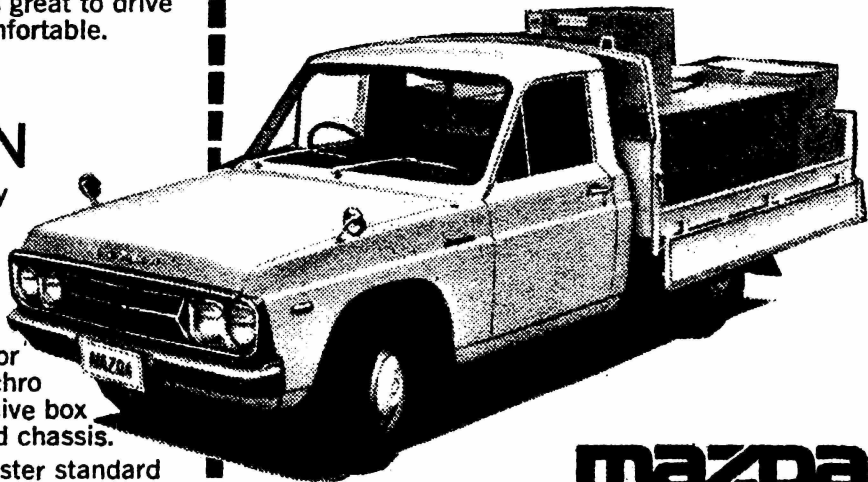
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around, and with a feeling among residents who had heard the meeting that maybe the Island had a reasonable chance of avoiding being steamrollered.

at first, more questions than views

AT DECEMBER 1 COUNCIL, Norfolk's elected representatives were (with the exception of Cr. McIntyre) still wanting further study of the Report, and better indications of how residents felt about the recommendations.

Cr. McIntyre had already concluded that the Report was loaded with bad for the Island, and had given many of his immediate reasons at the meeting on November 25th.

At the December 1 meeting he asked for Commonwealth clarification on legal questions raised by the Report. In the light of the Berwick decision of the High Court (on which many of the Report's recommendations are based) he asked for clarification as to whether it was legal for the Commonwealth to exclude any Territory resident from Commonwealth taxes or social benefits; whether Sec. 14 of the Norfolk Island Act, in which Commonwealth Acts are excluded from applying to Norfolk unless stated to apply, is legal; and whether Norfolk's Immigration, Customs and Posts & Telegraph Ordinances were legal.

His questions sounded legalistic but were basic to the Island. If taxes and social benefits were now required to extend to residents of Territories, how could Cocos and Christmas Islands be exempted? If taxes and benefits weren't actually required, why should they be forced on Norfolk? And if the Berwick decision meant that all rights and obligations had to be equal, everywhere in the Commonwealth and its Territories, didn't that mean the end of Norfolk's immigration, customs and postal regulations?

Cr. Ryves also had questions he felt needed answers, before anyone could respond intelligently to the Nimmo Report. Did Council's comments have to be confined to the Report's recommendations? Could Council develop its own alternatives? Should it be assumed that Australia would accept and implement the Report? If so,

which recommendations would be acted on first? Did the Commonwealth intend to bring in mainland taxes in any event?

Cr. Blucher asked who would do the interpreting of the Report, on matters where its meaning is not clear. The Administrator said if there were any questions about the Report he would transmit them to Canberra. Cr. Blucher re-phrased the question, asking who would decide what the Report meant, if Sir John Nimmo were not available to clarify his own meanings. The Administrator said Cr. Blucher was getting into deep water - that if he had questions, the Administrator would try to get answers.

The Administrator reminded the Councillors that he was off to Canberra in several days for the initial meeting of the Inter-Departmental Committee that had been set up to deal with the Report, and that the Council had been asked for its views on the Report.

He said that he was looking for views, as requested, but that instead he was getting lots of questions.

He suggested that Council should start at the beginning, and give its views on the "first principal matter" on which the Report had recommended that Australia should decide whether to abandon Norfolk or to continue being responsible for the Island's viability.

ask the people? that would be costly, time-consuming, difficult to justify

Cr. Blucher introduced a motion that he had given notice of at the previous meeting. The motion said that the Council were democratically elected to represent Island residents, and the Council intended to communicate directly with the Minister responsible for Norfolk - not through Departmental officers.

The Administrator reported that he had already cabled the text of the motion when Cr. Blucher had given notice of it, and that a reply had already been received from the Department.

The reply read: "Proposal to bypass IDC and go straight to Minister: Machinery for administering a Territory is set out in Administrative Arrangements Order of the 22nd of December 1975, which provides for Administrative Services to ad-

minister the Norfolk Island Act 1957 and for matters relating to the Territory to be dealt with by this Department. Other Ministers and Department have responsibility in defined areas. Council's role is advisory, as provided under the Norfolk Island Act; namely, to consider and tender advice to the Administrator."

The Administrator then referred to a Council resolution calling for a Referendum to determine the wishes of residents concerning their future form of government.

He said the Department had also reacted to this resolution, and read the following cable:

"Referendum: Power to initiate a Referendum is contained in Sections 4, 5 and 6 of the Referendum Ordinance 1964. The only Referendum which can be requested by electors is one relating to a matter with respect to which the Governor-General may make Ordinances. Council should also be aware that Sir John Nimmo's attitude toward a Referendum, as set out at pages 339-340 of the Report. In addition Referenda are costly and time-consuming and difficult to justify when it is considered that all who would vote have already been given ample opportunity to put their views to the Royal Commission."

The Administrator then asked the Legal Adviser to present an opinion he had prepared on the subject. The Legal Adviser then reviewed the Referendum Ordinance and said "I think it is clear that at this stage the major recommendations of the Royal Commission Report are not matters on which the Governor-General may make an Ordinance."

Councillors reacted strongly against the opinion, saying that the Governor-General could make Ordinances on any matter affecting the peace, order and good government of the Island -- and that included every one of Sir John Nimmo's recommendations.

After distressed comment by several Councillors, the Legal Adviser volunteered the information that his opinion was related only to the two first recommendations of Sir John Nimmo -- as to whether the Commonwealth should abandon Norfolk, and whether it should remain a Territory.

Later in the meeting the Administrator said he would be seeing the Minister in a few days - "but I seem to be going to see the Minister without having heard any views on the Report."

His comment brought a long re-



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ply from Cr. Blucher, setting out an analysis of how the Report's recommendations would damage Norfolk and the Island's tourist industry. Cr. Smith said that his personal view was that "If we accept this Report, we've lost everything." Cr. Bennett argued further for the necessity of a Referendum. Crs. McKenzie and Ryves still were not ready to declare themselves. Cr. Quintal delivered a forceful statement, at some length -- it's printed verbatim, along with the stands taken by others later in the month, in this issue's "Council Transcript".

"the Government had moved to implement.."

ON DECEMBER 2ND the Minister for Transport (Mr. Nixon) made a press statement saying that the big question of Norfolk's future air services had been resolved at last.

East-West Airlines would take over from Qantas.

East-West seemed to be a highly acceptable choice, so far as most people on the Island were concerned.

But for those concerned with the larger issues of the Nimmo Report, the Minister's statement was something to worry about.

"The Minister said that the Government had moved to implement one of the recommendations of Sir John Nimmo the Royal Commissioner who recently presented his Report on matters relating to Norfolk Island," said the second sentence of the announcement.

tough answers — and time to take a stand

THE ADMINISTRATOR returned from the initial IDC meeting in Canberra on December 8th. He brought answers to questions the Council had raised -- and a lot more information about the apparent lay of the land, so far as the Nimmo Report was concerned.

In his absence Council had become concerned that no definite date had been set for a meeting to hear what Mr. O'Leary had learned, and had formally requested one for December 10th.

Mr. O'Leary's messages from Canberra were distressing to Council, but they were clear.

The Chairman of the IDC (Mr. Ahrens of the Department of Ad-

ministrative Services) had told the Committee members that the task of the IDC should be distinguished from the task of the Royal Commission: The Minister had undertaken to consider Norfolk Island views, but that did not mean that the Committee should "re-sift the mass of evidence" given to the Commission and the IDC should avoid getting into a position where it was re-assessing. It was to avoid becoming a "mini Royal Commission."

A small group of the IDC members expected to visit Norfolk early in February, for discussions with the Council, the Administrator reported.

To complete the picture of his Canberra visit, the Administrator delivered answers to questions the Council had raised.

Cr. Ryves had proposed that the Government provide an independent economist to help Council see how Norfolk's tourist industry may be affected by the Nimmo recommendations. The answer: "Appointment of an independent economist is not justified and would delay consideration of the Report. The Government may, however, be prepared to have advisers from its Taxation and Social Security Department visit the Island to answer questions of any residents including commercial interests concerning possible extension of tax and social security provisions to Norfolk."

Council had formally asked that Australia agree not to take any actions in respect of the Report without fullest prior discussion with Council. The answer: "The Government wishes to deal with Sir John Nimmo's Report expeditiously, and indeed some decisions need to be taken very quickly to avoid unnecessary and fruitless discussion." However the Government would take into account the views of the Council on the main body of recommendations provided they were received by Feb.17.

Council had requested an extension of the time available for its consideration of the Report of, say, two months. The answer: "A doubling of the time for consideration of the Report is not favoured but up to one month would be agreed to; and longer, if Council furnishes specific and acceptable reasons for further extension."

Council had asked for a Referendum. The answer: "That was answered on the first of December."

Cr. Ryves had raised five questions. Should Council confine it-

self to the alternatives proposed by Sir John Nimmo? Answer: not necessarily. Could Council develop its own alternatives? Answer: any such would be considered. Can it be assumed that Australia has accepted the Report and will implement it? Answer: Council should not assume anything. If Australia does not accept the Report's recommendations, would it consider other alternatives? Answer: yes. Had Australia decided to apply full taxes to Norfolk, regardless? Answer: No decision has been taken by the Government.

And finally, the answers to Cr. McIntyre's questions about whether the Berwick decision required the Government to make rights and obligations equal in all the Territories, and whether the decision clashed with Norfolk's immigration, customs and postal regulations: "I do not conceive it as part of my Ministerial duty to proffer legal advice," Sen. Withers had told the Administrator.

Council didn't like the answers at all - but there they were, and Cr. Blucher thanked the Administrator for getting them promptly.

And shortly afterward Cr. Blucher asked leave to speak at length, and in a soft voice began telling how he felt the Nimmo Report would permanently ruin the way of life on the Island.

He spoke for close on an hour, reading from 18 pages of text that had been worked and worked over with alterations and notations.

The meeting was not being broadcast, but The News published an 8-page supplement reprinting the speech, which in a matter of a few days had crystallised Island feelings about the Report.

The text is reproduced again in this issue, as a self-mailing eight pages that readers can use to send on to friends on the mainland who care about Norfolk but haven't been able to tell how the Nimmo Report would affect the Island.

who is weighing the Report's soundness?

ON DECEMBER 12TH, checking a point in the supplement reprinting Cr. Blucher's speech, the editor of The News telephoned the Administrator. In the course of the conversation the Administrator was asked if he could clarify the role of the IDC.

Did the IDC have any judgmental

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function - weighing the Report to see whether it was sound?

No, said the Administrator, that wasn't their function.

Would the IDC then be expected to take the Report as read?

Yes, said the Administrator; their job was to work out how the Report's recommendations could be implemented, and to see how they would affect each of the Departments involved.

After the phone conversation a question grew larger and larger, somewhere in the back part of the mind where fear lives; who, in the hierarchy of Government, is going to read the Report, think about it, and make a judgment about whether it is sound? Largely based on testimony provided by Commonwealth Departments, the Report is now in the hands of a Committee representing a number of those Departments - and the Committee is working out how the Report's recommendations can be implemented.

The Minister, one of the busiest men in the Government, can't possibly take the time to think it all through himself. He'll have to get someone to do that for him... someone from the Department..

a grave accusation

DECEMBER 16TH Council convened again. By this time Councillors had received comments from all over the Island favouring the stand that Cr. Blucher had taken. Most of them felt that Norfolk had never before expressed such nearly unanimous feelings on an Island issue. They went into the meeting feeling not only that they had support, but that they had a duty to press home the views residents had put to them.

Cr. Blucher led them again, with an opening address that focussed on Sir John Nimmo's assertion that the Island is a serious economic burden for Australia.

He said that Sir John Nimmo had based that assumption on testimony given by the Department of the Capital Territory, which was administering Norfolk at the time; but that Sir John Nimmo had jumped to three conclusions that were not warranted by the testimony.

Sir John Nimmo stated that the expenses listed by the Department were "outgoings to Norfolk Island by Australia" that were necessary for the Island's sustenance.

But the Department had not said that, according to Cr. Blucher. He quoted the Department's Secretary,

Mr. Engledow, who had said it was a debate point whether Norfolk was self-supporting or not, and that many of the Government's costs might be considered by residents to be over-government, not wanted by the Island.

Sir John Nimmo stated that the sum of the costs was "about 2.5 million dollars."

But the Department had not said that, according to Cr. Blucher. He said the figure added up by the Department was \$2,064,300, which the Council had refuted in later testimony - but that Sir John Nimmo had jumped to the conclusion that the total was \$2.5M. "That was a \$435,200 jump," Cr. Blucher said.

Sir John Nimmo had also jumped to the conclusion that these were annual costs, Cr. Blucher said - but the Department nowhere said they were annual, and many of the costs were obviously "once-done, once-finished" costs.

He concluded with a further quotation from Mr. Engledow's testimony, saying that it was the Department's opinion that if Norfolk could be different - rather than being just like the rest of Australia - the Department would not prevent it. Mr. Engledow had also said that the Island's future course was a matter for the Island to decide.

Cr. Blucher concluded by moving that his remarks be cabled to the Department, with Council's endorsement if Council agreed, and that the Minister be urgently begged to read them and to notify Council that he had read them, and what his reply, if any, was.

the Administrator's rebuttal — and a tiny, historic event

THE ADMINISTRATOR, speaking to Cr. Blucher's motion, drew on notes to begin taking issue with points Cr. Blucher had made at the session six days earlier.

He spoke of the News special supplement as having flooded the Island, and seeming to him to be a public relations exercise.

He said he was surprised at a number of the words Cr. Blucher had used.

Cr. Blucher had referred to the Council as the only elected representatives of Island voters; this was correct, said the Administrator, but Parliament was responsible for the

Island as a Territory.

Cr. Blucher had said Sir John Nimmo had accepted Department of the Capital Territory figures without examining them for accuracy. "This is a grave accusation against a person of his position," said the Administrator, and listed many impressive positions Sir John Nimmo had held over the years.

The Administrator also read out a quotation from the Report, in which Sir John Nimmo had said there were honest witnesses, honest but ignorant witnesses, and witnesses who were neither honest nor accurate, and willing to say anything that would advance their own aims.

The Administrator said he thought Cr. Blucher's remarks about care at the Norfolk Island Hospital were "less than kind" to many doctors, nurses and other medical personnel on the mainland.

As to the Norfolk Island School, the Administrator said Sir John Nimmo had recommended that the close association with N.S.W. ought to continue.

As to social benefits, the Administrator recited the weekly sums payable to elderly persons on the mainland, and said he suggested that this level of spending was such that the Commonwealth was endeavouring to preserve the dignity of older people.

As to voting, the Administrator noted that the Canberra electorate had changed hands at the last election, and said he thought 900 or so Norfolk voters may have more influence in such circumstances than their number at first indicates.

As to airport expansion, the Administrator said that neither TAA nor AAA has jumbo jets.

As to the proposed gaol, the Administrator read out the description of the building and said it did not sound like a big concrete gaol.

As to the need for mainland taxes to close all tax loopholes, the Administrator quoted from the body of the Report saying that the Island must be brought fully within the Australian tax system.

As to claims that a Referendum was being resisted, the Administrator called on the Legal Adviser to refresh Council's memory by restating his opinion.

As the Legal Adviser started to speak, a tiny, historic thing happened. Cr. Blucher called a point of order. He said he did not feel the Legal Adviser's opinion was pertinent to the motion being discussed.

The Administrator said he thought that the Legal Adviser's views would be beneficial. But if Cr. Blucher insisted --

The Administrator's tone must be described as gentlemanly. Among gentlemen, of course one would not insist. It would have made one appear to be -- well, pushy. There was a pause. Just long enough to allow one to wave aside one's point of order.

"I would still like to place the point of order, Mr. Chairman," said Cr. Blucher, in a gentlemanly way. He said the discussion seemed to be only the ridiculing of a Councillor's previous remarks. He requested that the motion be dealt with.

All over the Island, people listening to the broadcast suddenly realised Norfolk had a leader.

the Minister's tone had been so different

Cr. McIntyre supported Cr. Blucher. "I think Cr. Blucher's original point, which is unarguable, notwithstanding your own remarks about Sir John Nimmo's very high qualifications, is that the Nimmo Report - insofar as a great deal of it is based on the moral grounds that Norfolk Island is expensive - is seriously flawed. That flaw runs through the entire 74 recommendations.

"If the Report is cracked down the middle by a fundamental flaw, then we should not try to paste the pieces together," Cr. McIntyre said.

Discussion of Cr. Blucher's motion -- which was eventually passed, and was telephoned to Canberra after the meeting -- brought positive statements of position from all Councillors who had been waiting for clarification of the situation.

These are included as verbatim text in this issue's "Council Transcript" - which (along with Cr. Blucher's major address on Dec. 10th) can stand as an unmistakable picture of what the Island's elected representatives think the Nimmo Report means for Norfolk.

As the December 16th session drew to a close, Cr. McIntyre spoke of how different the present tone of discussion was from that during the Minister's visit to Norfolk in March.

Then the Minister had said he felt there was too much government in the world; that he did not think Norfolk should look to 'big brother'; that he did not believe in interfering; that the Government would not be making decisions on the Nimmo Report without giving Council all the time it wanted to consider the Report -- and that he was diffident about speaking of the Quarantine Station, because it might look as if he were trying to impose something on the Island that was not wanted.

"Now," said Cr. McIntyre, "the only sounds we can hear are of the tumblers already rolling."

And he concluded by saying that he thought the way to get back to where we were was to get the Minister's attention.

the Government moves again to implement

ON DECEMBER 17th the Commonwealth Government announced that it had decided to continue to accept responsibility for maintaining Norfolk Island as a viable community.

The Government had also decided that Norfolk would remain a Territory - though no time-span was mentioned.

The decisions settled the first



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two recommendations of the Nimmo Report. The statement said the Government had announced its decisions "because of speculation concerning its intentions and in order to facilitate consideration of the other recommendations in the Report. . ."

The statement paraphrased Sir John Nimmo's first recommendation, to omit any reference to the idea that Norfolk might have been abandoned.

close to Christmas, a sudden sea-change

AS CHRISTMAS DREW nearer, with another meeting of Council set for December 22nd, a sort of sea-change seemed suddenly to blow in from the Pacific, altering the whole Nimmo Report situation.

Councillors realised that how-ever badly flawed the Nimmo Report might be, it probably was not going to be "laid aside," as the Council had asked.

And they realised that whatever answers came back from the Minister, Council had to get to work on positive recommendations for how Norfolk could best be governed. They began, in-

dividually, working through the 70 remaining recommendations of the Report (four recommendations had been accepted, two of them related to the shift from Qantas to East-West) and seeing what changes or replacements might actually fit the needs of the Island.

And the apparent confrontation between Council and the Administrator suddenly seemed to vanish.

At the December 22nd meeting, Cr. Blucher moved that the Minister be asked to remove the time deadline on Council, in order to permit Council to develop a sound set of proposals -- on the condition that the Administrator be watching Council, and assuring the Minister that progress was in fact being made; and that the Minister be asked that no further Nimmo recommendations be implemented without Council's having been able to present its plans for the Norfolk of the future.

The motion passed unanimously, and was cabled to the Department with the Administrator's full support. It was even rumoured that the Administrator had suggested that such a motion might be quite ac-

ceptable in Canberra.

The Administrator and Councillors wished each other a happy Christmas, and everyone adjourned until January 5th.

thinking about the unthinkable

AS A SORT OF HOLIDAY bonus, word arrived on the Island that an expert on United Nations matters, whose advice had been sought privately, had examined Norfolk's position and had said that there are well-established paths for appealing to the U.N. if the worst came to the worst, and damaging changes were being forced on the Island without allowing residents to say what they wanted.

Council's understanding had been that since Norfolk is a Territory, its affairs are considered part of Australia's internal business; and that the Island therefore could seek assistance from the U.N. only with prior approval from Australia - which would not seem likely.

Not so, says the expert; the U.N. regularly considers appeals from places whose political situations are similar to Norfolk Island's.

FOR THE INFORMATION OF TOURISTS

CASUAL GUEST POLICY

VISITORS TO NORFOLK are sometimes uncertain about the casual-guest policies of the Island's leading hotel.

The brief answer is that you are most welcome, regardless of where you may be staying.

Luncheon at the South Pacific is always pleasant. When the weather is fine you may be served at a table beside the swimming pool. If you prefer, you may sit in the glass-walled indoor barbecue room overlooking the pool and a backdrop of Norfolk Pines.

The luncheon menu always includes an inexpensive dish, usually \$1 or \$1.50, and a beautiful array of hot and cold dishes.

Every night there is special entertainment: MONDAY a smorgasbord and dance to "Lantana"; TUESDAY Housie; WEDNESDAY Singalong with Sharon; THURSDAY South Pacific Island Dinner and dance to "Toofey"; FRIDAY "Disco Night"; SATURDAY a candlelight dinner (with a fine steak for only \$5.75; SUNDAY dinner and a film.

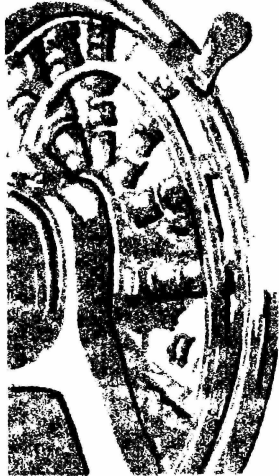
Our four chefs have studied on four continents and present the best in imported and local foods, artfully prepared, and served by the attractive girls in the bright cerise-coloured uniforms.

Two requests, please -- make bookings before 4.30 to assure a table, and arrange to arrive before 7.30pm

COME AND ENJOY the South Pacific early in your visit ... you'll want to return.

South Pacific

Hotel/motel limited



Royal Commission

NORFOLK ISLAND was colonised by England beginning in 1788. For many years it was used as a penal settlement, which was later withdrawn to Tasmania. In 1856 it was set aside by Queen Victoria for the descendants of the "Bounty" mutineers, who were moved here from Pitcairn Island. It has been their homeland ever since. At the last semi-official estimate (1975), the Pitcairn descendants and their families accounted for about 57% of the Island's permanent population of 859 adults. About 38% of the population were born on Norfolk; about 23% in Australia and 23% in New Zealand; and about 16% in other countries.

The Island is ruled by Australia. There is a Norfolk Island Council elected to represent the people of the Island, but it can only offer advice to Australia, and its advice is frequently over-ruled.

Early in 1975 the Australian Government set up a Royal Commission to make recommendations on Norfolk's future form of government, on the grounds that the existing arrangements were "outmoded and inappropriate". The Commission's recommendations were published in November, 1976. They are that the Island should be fully integrated into the Australian political system, with Norfolk becoming part of the Canberra electorate; that a local Assembly should have authority for roads, bridges and similar "shire" matters; that the Federal Parliament should have power over major matters such as land control, town planning, law enforcement, education and health, tourism generally, etc.; and that the full Australian system of social service benefits and taxes should apply.

Sir John Nimmo, the Royal Commissioner, says that the Island is a serious economic burden to Australia and that therefore the Island is not entitled to a say in determining its future form of government. He recommends that no referendum be allowed on the matter for at least five years.

Meanwhile the Norfolk Island Council is working to develop an alternative plan of government that it hopes will suit the Island's real needs and will also be acceptable to Australia.

The Australian Minister responsible for Norfolk Island, Sen. R. G. Withers, has undertaken to consider the Council's views.

THE NORFOLK ISLAND NEWS

SPECIAL
8-PAGE PULL-OUT
ON THE NORFOLK ISLAND
ROYAL COMMISSION REPORT

FEW AUSTRALIANS, and only a handful of Parliamentarians, have ever visited Norfolk Island or have any first-hand knowledge of the Island's way of life.

But the Australian Parliament may soon be voting on proposals that will mean radical changes on the Island.

People on Norfolk have no elected representative in the Parliament, but if you have friends on the mainland who can do anything to help see that Norfolk Island is better understood before new laws are passed to determine the Island's future government, you may like to mail them this eight-page pull-out. It has been designed for easy folding and mailing. If you will pull it out, you will find mailing advice on its back cover.

Highest Elected Representative Says Nimmo Recommendations Would Permanently Ruin the

NORFOLK ISLAND WAY OF LIFE

PRESIDENT of Committees William A. Blucher received 72% of the valid votes cast at the last Norfolk Island Council elections. He is the Island's highest elected representative.

On December 10, 1976, about three weeks after copies of the Roy-

al Commission Report had been received on the Island, Cr. Blucher delivered a detailed address on the Report and how it would affect the Island. The full text of the address is reprinted here. It was subsequently supported by formal vote of the Council.

Councillor Blucher's Address

THE NORFOLK ISLAND COUNCIL, who are the only elected representatives of the people of Norfolk Island, have been asked to comment on a very complicated set of proposals that would radically change the way of life on the Island.

This set of proposals is made in the Report of the Royal Commission into Matters Relating to Norfolk Island, which has been tabled in Parliament. The Royal Commission was appointed because the Australian Government of the day believed that Norfolk Island's present form of administration had become outmoded and inappropriate.

In urging the Council to state its views quickly, the Administrator has several times said "The place to begin is at the beginning. Let us begin at the beginning." By "the beginning", the Administrator means the first two paragraphs of the Royal Commission Report.

I agree that we should begin at the beginning, but with respect I do not accept the idea that the Royal Commission Report is the beginning. The true beginning is the Norfolk Island way of life.

Since 1856, when our ancestors the Pitcairn families were re-settled on Norfolk and the Island was set apart

for them, a most unusual and distinctive way of life has grown here and taken shape.

The Norfolk Island way of life is the result of many forces.

It is based partly on the fact that we are an island, three miles by five miles in size, a thousand miles out in the Pacific Ocean from Sydney, with a population now of about 1600 people.

Our way of life is partly based on the fact that this is a very beautiful Island, with a semi-tropical climate and good soil.

It is also an important part of our way of life that since 1856 we have been a territory under the protection and guidance of, first, England, and since 1913 of Australia.

**"WE HAVE FOR GENERATIONS
BEEN ALMOST FULLY
SELF-SUPPORTING. . ."**

We have for generations been an almost fully self-supporting territory. I say "almost" because the Island needs help and guidance - mostly guidance - from people who have experience that we lack.

It would be wasteful for us to make and support our own currency, for example, and it is a help to us to be able to use Australian currency. It would be foolish for us to try to have our own foreign affairs representation in other countries, and Australia provides that for us. It is reassuring to us to have the protection of a large country with defence forces, because we could not defend ourselves. We need good educational curricula, and we need teachers who have been well trained. We need good health regulations to follow. We need guidance in the form of laws that have been written and used elsewhere, which we can examine and learn from in working out laws that are suitable to Norfolk Island. We need an international standard of air and shipping safety regulations. We need higher courts where decisions made in the Norfolk Island Court can be appealed to.

We need many such kinds of guidance - Australia kindly provides them, although Norfolk Island pays most of the actual costs involved. We pay for our own school for example, and for our own hospital. But some services are provided free, and we hope these would continue to be provided free; as an example, foreign affairs representation. We are glad to have Australia represent us in many countries of the world without asking us to pay, just as England represented Australia in

many countries of the world without asking Australia to pay.

It has been charged that Norfolk Island is a serious economic burden to Australia.

This charge is made by Sir John Nimmo, the Royal Commissioner, who states that there were \$2,500,000 of annual outgoings from Australia to Norfolk Island in the last financial year. This sum was worked out by the Department of the Capital Territory in a submission made to the Royal Commission.

The calculation is false. It was refuted at the time by the Norfolk Island Council, and I will be glad to refute it again for anyone who is interested. In these remarks I will mention only three examples of the falseness of the calculation.

1. The Norfolk Island Meteorological Station is included as a \$67,000 annual outgoing from Australia to Norfolk Island. This station makes no forecasts for Norfolk. It exists purely as a reporting station required by the Australian meteorological system. It is not a cost of Norfolk Island, but of Australia.

2. Losses of \$750,000 a year by Qantas on the Sydney-to-Norfolk route are included as an annual outgoing from Australia to Norfolk Island. This sum was the result of an Australian policy that Qantas should operate the route. East-West Airlines has just been appointed to take over the route, and it expects to earn money on the run. It will need no Australian subsidy. There is no \$750,000 annual outgoing from Australia to Norfolk Island.

**FIGURE OF \$435,700
WAS "SHEER FANTASY"**

3. The cost of services provided to Norfolk Island by the Australian Department of Labour and Immigration, and the Australian Department of Education, is included as being \$435,700. These two Departments submitted no cost estimates whatsoever, and they provided no significant services whatsoever. The figure of \$435,700 is sheer fantasy. It was invented because a grand total of \$2,500,000 sounded like a nice, round number. \$435,700 more was needed to reach that number, and those two Departments were the only ones not heard from.

In all, there are 28 items of supposed "annual outgoings from Australia to Norfolk Island" in the calculation presented by the Department of the Capital Territory. At

least 21 of these items in the opinion of the Norfolk Island Council are either seriously overstated or are totally inapplicable to the true costs of the Island. I have mentioned only three of those items. Those three total \$1,252,700, which is more than half of the imagined total of \$2½ million a year.

Any calculation that includes a few false items, amounting to over half the total, is a false calculation that should not be relied on until it has been completely re-examined and corrected.

**FALSE CALCULATION WAS
USED AS "A FOUNDATION ON
WHICH TO BUILD HIS
ENTIRE REPORT"**

Sir John Nimmo accepted that false calculation without examining it closely for accuracy. He then used it as a foundation on which to build his entire Report and his recommendations for the Island.

After spending a year on his enquiry, Sir John concluded that the most important and vital decision, from which all other decisions must flow, is whether Australia should abandon Norfolk Island or continue to accept responsibility for maintaining it.

In weighing that all-important decision, he says, and I quote,

"If the Government chooses to stay in the Island, it should set out clearly the conditions and policies under which it will continue to treat the Island as part of Australia. As the net overall financial burden is clearly being borne by mainland Australia and no one else, it is proper that the Commonwealth Government should have this choice. If Norfolk Island residents were meeting this cost then they would have a case for exercising the choice themselves via a referendum. It would be nonsensical for a minuscule group of 1600 people, who have never contributed anything to Australia by way of taxes and from whom Australia can be expected to receive minimal or no economic benefit, to claim the right to demand that Australia continue to support them on their own terms. It is Australia's choice, not theirs, and it is for Australia to set down the terms under which it may be willing to continue to pay for the sustenance of Norfolk Island." Unquote.

Sir John Nimmo has accepted a false calculation, and his major conclusion is false as a result.

The net overall financial burden of Norfolk Island is not being borne

by mainland Australia, but by the people and the economy of Norfolk Island itself.

The people of Norfolk Island are not, as Sir John assumes, claiming any right to demand that Australia continue to support them.

Australia is not paying for the sustenance of Norfolk Island. The Island very largely pays for its own sustenance, and the people of Norfolk Island should, as a matter of fairness, have a voice in shaping the future of the Island.

Many nations have many territories that must be heavily subsidised. The Royal Commission figures give a false - and, I feel, degrading - impression that Norfolk Island is such a territory. It is not.

Norfolk Island virtually supports itself. It has done so for 120 years. It has no public debt, but actually has a small surplus in reserve.

I would think Australia would find this a source of pleasure and satisfaction, rather than trying to pretend that we are a serious burden.

The good way of life on Norfolk Island comes from the earth, the sun, the rain, the sea, the hard work and co-operation of the people who live here, and from the beauty and peacefulness of the Island, which attract a growing number of tourists here.

It does not come from Canberra or from the Australian budget.

NOTION THAT NORFOLK MIGHT BE "ABANDONED" IS PREPOSTEROUS...BUT...

Sir John Nimmo says that perhaps Australia should abandon Norfolk Island, on the grounds that it is a great expense. I hope this notion will be recognised as being exactly what it is - preposterous! But if it should for some strange reason be taken seriously, and Australia should abandon us, we could certainly want to find another large power that would be accommodating enough to provide the kind of support we do need, at very little cost to itself.

If you ask people on Norfolk Island and whether they like the Norfolk Island way of life, the answer is an overwhelming "yes". People here prefer it to the way of life they may have known anywhere else in the world.

But now a Royal Commission Report has recommended that our way of life be almost completely changed. I will speak about twelve of these

recommended changes. Many others are recommended as well.

1. Self reliance. Norfolk Island is largely self-supporting. People who live here know that we have to get along pretty well on our own. We do not look to the outside world for hand-outs.

The Nimmo Report recommends that we be meshed into the Australian Government financial system, and that we be encouraged to rely on economic support from Canberra.

2. Our laws. Norfolk Island has its own set of fairly simple and clear laws, most of them made to suit the needs of the Island. In general, it is possible for an ordinary citizen to get a copy of the law on some subject, read it, understand it, and know what he can do. In the past several years the Council has been increasingly concerned about the number of new laws that have been imposed on the Island from Canberra, not because they were needed or wanted here, but because Australia wanted them.

The Nimmo Report recommends that our own set of laws should have superimposed on it the entire tangled range of Australian laws.

3. Taxation. It has been thought by some that Norfolk Island is tax-free. This is not so. There is a considerable Norfolk Island tax system --

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Valley View

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at a price suited to the family on a budget:

Mon., Tues., Fri. and Sat. a really nice four-course
dinner (choice of 6 dishes and 4 desserts) only \$4

Thursday our special "Baked Dinner Island Style"
with all of the trimmings. A feast - \$8 per person

Sun. and Wed., we have a fine Island-style Smorgas-
bord and then show a current-run film, all for \$5

New Cascade Rd. - Phone 2185

but it is a Norfolk Island kind of system.

We pay customs duties on all goods that are shipped into the Island, and that is a great deal, because we produce no manufactured goods ourselves.

We pay extremely heavy freight charges to bring these goods in, and this is a form of tax that affects every one of us in a real way.

We pay an annual works call levy. Some years ago the works call system was more typical of Norfolk Island than it is now; each man was expected to work a certain number of days per year on the roads, or on other community jobs. He could pay money instead of working, if he preferred. That system was abolished by Australia because they felt it was a violation of some United Nations agreement against "forced labour". I thought the change was a shame. Now everyone just pays the money.

We pay a kind of tax through a local Norfolk Island Administration monopoly on the sale of beer, wines and spirits. These are sold at prices far below mainland prices, but there is still a very large margin of profit that helps pay local government expenses.

We pay a wide range of small fees for registration of cars, dogs, guns and other such matters.

We pay a "Norfolk Island" form of tax for transport - that is, do it yourself. There is no government transport of any kind on the Island, and every individual expects to pay for and maintain his own transport.

The same thing applies to water and sewerage. There is none provided by government. Every home must catch, or dig for, its own water supply, and provide its own sewerage, which must meet proper health requirements. City people may think that water is free if you catch it from the rain, but catching it, storing it and pumping it are a very expensive and uncertain operation, which government does on the mainland, but which Norfolk Islanders do for themselves.

A PARTICULAR NORFOLK ISLAND "TAX" -- "THOUGH WE SCARCELY THINK OF IT THAT WAY..."

We on Norfolk Island pay another kind of tax every day, although we scarcely think of it that way. On Norfolk Island we care for our own. When someone is ill, or in need, or requires a hand, family and friends and neighbours make the effort to

help. We do not pay taxes to a government and say "here, you look after those hardship cases for us". We do it ourselves.

Norfolk Island is not tax free. We pay substantial taxes, in a Norfolk Island manner.

The Nimmo Report recommends that the full range of Australian taxes should be added on top of the Norfolk Island taxes that seem to be adequate for our needs.

I would not question the need for heavy income taxes in Australia. There are many mainland jobs that have to be done by the Commonwealth Government. It must finance vast Government offices and wages and expenses; a defence force; tremendous transport systems; a postal system; universities; research; foreign affairs representation overseas; agricultural services; it must provide heavy support for the States; it must pay heavy interest on the national debt; and it must pay for very extensive social welfare benefits; it must pay its share of developing other countries to develop themselves. But these have very little to do with Norfolk Island.

Taking a general economic view, there is no question that the addition of heavy new Australian taxes would considerably increase the costs, and therefore the prices, of

AT 12.30 ON WEDNESDAYS AND SUNDAYS
ONE OF NORFOLK'S HAPPIEST EVENTS GETS UNDERWAY...

RAIN
OR
FINE!

Luncheon in the Garrison Courtyard

UNDER THE SPREADING AVOCADO TREE

COME JOIN US UNDER THE COLOURFUL CINZANO UMBRELLAS
AND ENJOY A THICK PRIME AGED NEW ZEALAND STEAK,
GRILLED OVER AN OPEN-AIR CHARCOAL FIRE -- HEAVEN!

bowls of crisp tossed salad...hot, crusty French bread & butter

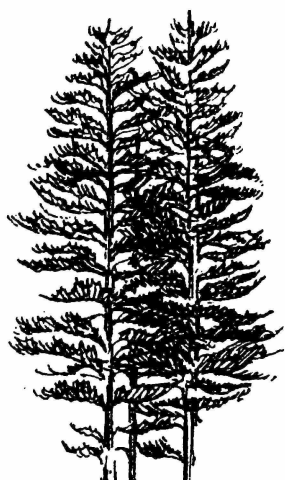
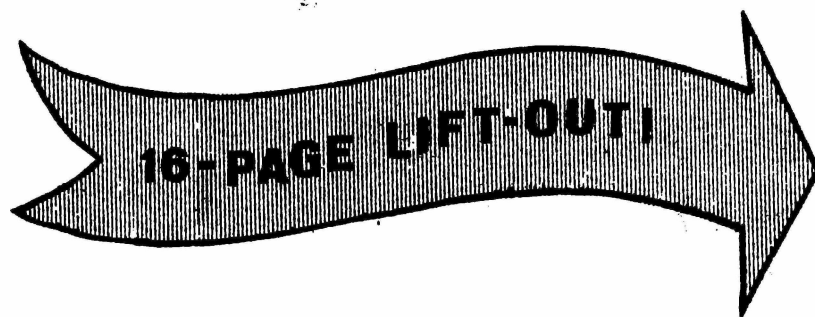
Children's portions available



the Garrison

NORFOLK'S INTERNATIONALLY FAMOUS PROVINCIAL RESTAURANT

IN THE EVENING: distinguished à la carte menu Thurs. Fri. and Sat.: please book -2073



ISLAND HANDBOOK

for JANUARY

- ▶ what's on
- ▶ where to find it
- ▶ best shopping
- ▶ Norfolk calendar
- ▶ Island map
- ▶ opening & closing times
- ▶ airline schedules
- ▶ radio programmes
- ▶ shipping information
- ▶ ...and the

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NORFOLK
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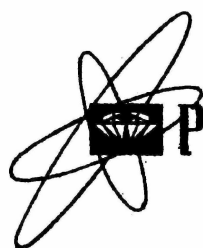


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ALL SWISS WATCHES AND FULLY GUARANTEED

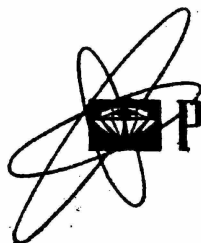


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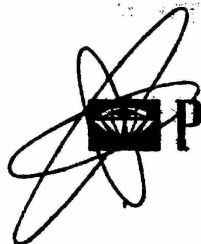


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SCOTTISH KNITWEAR, partner packs, skirt packs, sock-and-tie sets by Munrospun

PHILIPPINE SHIRTS for men, women and children

BLOUSES and cotton dresses

WOOD & IVORY carvings and other souvenirs

Continue along Taylor's road toward Kingston, and 150 yards past Queen Elizabeth Avenue you will find us. Directly opposite Nimpex. Phone 2181

HOURS

POST OFFICE: Open from 8.00am to 11.30am and again from 12.15 to 4.00pm Monday through Thursday; on Friday, 9.00am to 12.30 and from 1.15 to 5.00pm

Mail closing times vary with aircraft departure times.

TELEPHONES: Local phones operate automatically, 24 hours. Overseas calls can be made at the OTC building in New Cascade Road 10am - 8pm Mon-Fri; 10am-6pm Sat; 10-12 and 3-6pm Sun. Sydney calls \$3.75 for 3 minutes; Auckland calls \$4.68 for 3 minutes.

TELEGRAMS: Open 9am-6pm Mon-Fri; 9am-2.30pm Sat; 9am-2pm Sun. Charge 5¢ a word to Australia or NZ.

BOND STORE: (at Kingston) 10am-12.00 and 1-4pm Mon-Fri. A bond store branch at the airport is open for plane arrivals and departures seven days a week, for passengers only.

DOCTOR: (at N.I. Hospital). By appointment Mon-Fri. Emergencies, telephone 2091 or 2092.

DENTIST: (also at N.I. Hospital). By appointment, Mon-Fri. Telephone 2091 or 2092.

HOSPITAL VISITING HOURS: 11-12, 2-4 and 7-8.30 daily.

BANKS: 10am-3pm Mon-Thurs, open

to 5pm Fri.

LIBRARY: Monday 10-1 and 4-6; Wednesday 10-1; Friday 1-4.

STAMPS: At P.O. or at Island Shop several doors East. For back issues of N.I. stamps, see Amy Bathie at De Chesne's store across from the Milk Bar.

ADMINISTRATION: Offices open 10-12 and 12.45-4.00 Mon-Fri.

SHOPPING HOURS IN BURNT PINE: generally 9am-12.30, and 2pm-5.30.

Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday afternoons almost all shops are closed. A fair number are open Sunday mornings, but not all.

AFTER-HOURS SHOPPING: The Milk Bar 7.30am-9pm Mon-Sat and 9am-7pm Sun; Burns Philp (Middlegate store) 8.30am-8.30pm Mon-Sat, 10am-7pm Sun.

TOURIST BUREAU: (Centre of Burnt Pine) 9-12 and 2-4 Mon-Fri but closed Wed afternoon; 9-12 Sat.

QANTAS - AIR NZ: Burnt Pine Office open 9-5 weekdays, 9-12.30 Wed-Sat.

PETROL STATIONS: There are two. Norfolk Island Motors, at the eastern edge of Burnt Pine, is open 8am-6pm every day but Sunday. Central Service Station, at the western edge of Burnt Pine, is open 8.30am-5.30pm Mon-Fri, 8.30am-1.30pm Sat, 9-12 Sun. Nights and Sunday afternoons you're out of luck.

CHURCHES

METHODIST

Sunday school 10am; services at 11am and 7.30pm. Pitcairn praise service last Sunday of month. Pastor Eric Dronfield.

CHURCH OF ENGLAND

All Saints (Kingston) 10.30am Sundays (Communion 1st Sun. in month) St. Barnabas Chapel evening prayer service 7.30pm Sun. Sunday school (Pitcairn Hall) 9.15am. Rev. Colin Berriman.

SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST

Sabbath school 9.45am Sat., service at 11.15am, Youth service 2.30pm. Pastor Laurence Gilmore.

CATHOLIC

Masses Sunday at 8am and 9.30am, and daily at 5.30pm. Fr. Des Scanlon.

COME TO THE NORFOLK ISLAND FILM EVENING

THREE COLOUR MOVIES

AT THE CASCADE ROAD HALL
(below the Methodist Church)

"NATURAL HISTORY"
Flora & Fauna Conservation

"PEOPLE AND THEIR HERITAGE"
Norfolk Islanders telling their own History.

"MIRACLE OF PITCAIRN"
A MUST FOR ALL VISITORS TO THE ISLAND.
HALL SEATS 130 PEOPLE.

THIS PROGRAM IS EXCLUSIVE TO THE ABOVE HALL
AND IS SHOWN EARLY IN THE WEEK.

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THE BIGGEST SMALL ISLAND IN THE WORLD.

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35mm single-lens-reflex camera
with full-aperture, through-the-lens light
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Large, bright viewfinder for quick,
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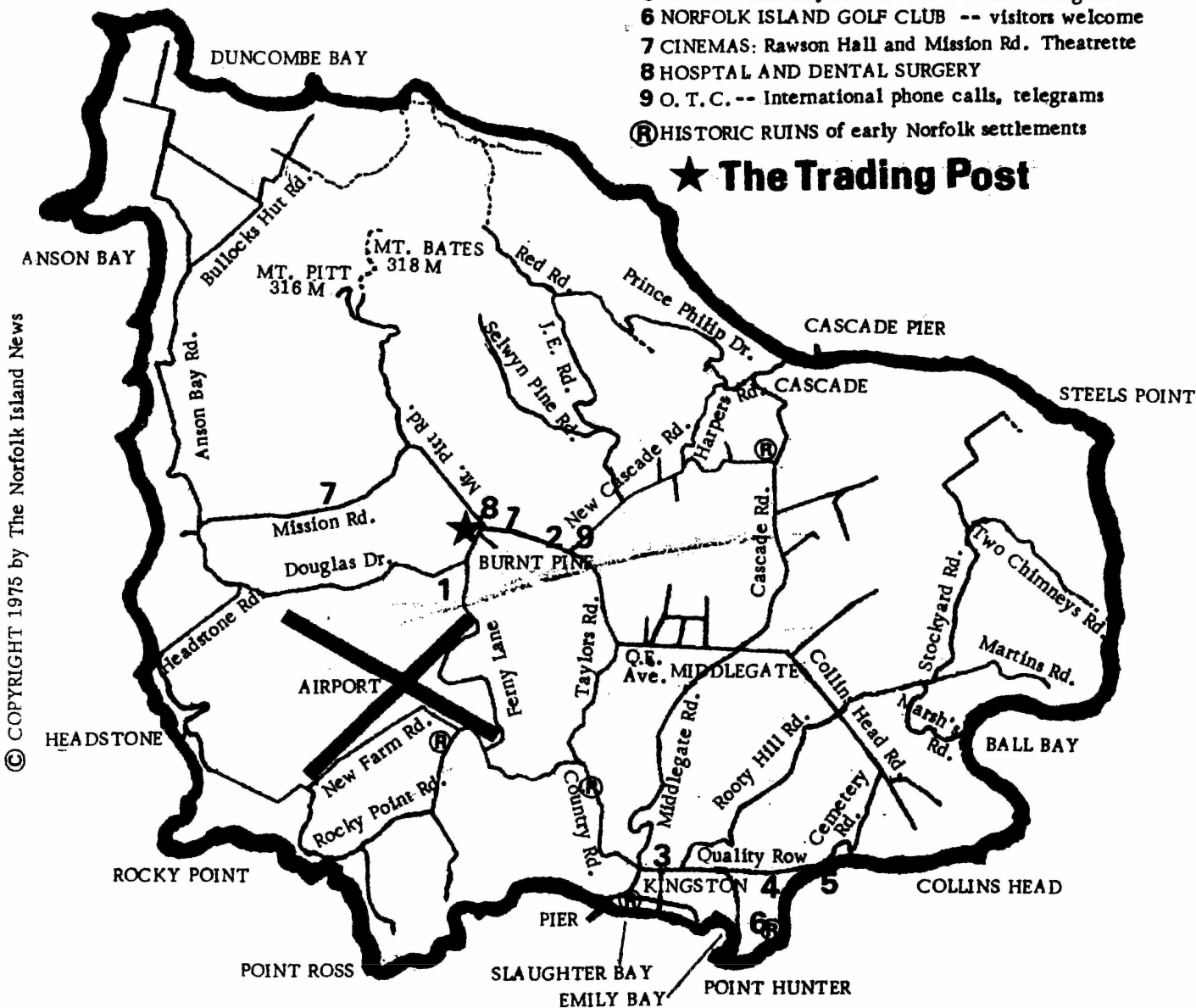
NORFOLK ISLAND

Here are a few of the many things to see on the island. Enjoy them during the day; you can shop late at the Trading Post

- 1 AIRPORT TERMINAL and Air Cargo office
- 2 SHOPPING CENTRE, Post Office, Banks, Tourist Board

- 3 ISLAND ADMINISTRATION ; Bond Store for spirits
- 4 CEMETERY -- touching inscriptions on old headstones
- 5 BLOODY BRIDGE, site of one of Norfolk's legends
- 6 NORFOLK ISLAND GOLF CLUB -- visitors welcome
- 7 CINEMAS: Rawson Hall and Mission Rd. Theatre
- 8 HOSPITAL AND DENTAL SURGERY
- 9 O. T. C. -- International phone calls, telegrams
- Ⓡ HISTORIC RUINS of early Norfolk settlements

★ The Trading Post



All roads lead to the complete holiday mini-mart — THE TRADING POST

"THE FIRST SHOP YOU COME TO AFTER LANDING AT THE AIRPORT"

OPEN 7 DAYS — 7.30 am to 9 pm (Except Sundays, when we get lazy and are open only from 9 am to 7 pm -- sorry about that....)

We want to help you make the most of your time on Norfolk so we carry freshly-baked Norfolk Island bread...eggs...teas and coffees...a complete range of tinned foods...frozen meats, vegetables, fish, sweets, pastries and 'heat-n-serve' items...soft drinks...biscuits, crackers and savouries...ice cream...imported cheeses...lollipops...magazines...batteries...cigarettes...wrapping paper...personal and gift stationery...greeting cards...bug sprays...toothpaste and medicine cabinet items...novelties...mainland newspapers...tinopeners...candles...first aid requirements...olives, pickles, nuts and condiments...picnic supplies...games...artists' requisites...gourmet foods...sliced luncheon meats...fresh fruits and veges, when Norfolk has them...needles and cotton, and almost anything else you've forgotten, every day of the week, early & late.



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MILTONS

Norfolk's Complete Duty-Free Centre

One of the finest manual turntables ever made. Sansui's SR-717



Sansui has engineered this direct-drive transcription turntable with particular attention to three key qualities: precision, stability and durability. When it comes to performance, vibrations you can't hear can, indeed, be extremely harmful to faithful reproduction of musical timbre and nuances. The Sansui SR-717 protects you from all motor vibration by driving the high-inertia platter directly with a DC

servomotor with its own solid-state electronic control system. The S-shaped tonearm with friction-free Sansui support reduces all tracing distortion. And the no-howl cabinet does away with resonance. Sansui uses superhardened steel alloy and other advanced materials throughout to ensure impressive performance over long use. When you listen to a record on the Sansui SR-717, all you will hear is what is on the record, not under it.

MILTONS

Norfolk's Complete Duty-Free Centre

The Norfolk Island

SUN

2 Rise 5.23, set 7.20

- Church Services
- Film, sm'b'd(VV7.30p)

MON

3 Rise 5.24, set 7.20

- Housie(LC)
- Film(Nlk)
- Sm'b'd(SP)



TUE

4 Rise 5.24, set 7.20

- Film, sm'b'd(VV)
- Film(Pds)
- Open night(Nlk)
- C'm'dants Dinner

WED

5 Rise 5.25, set 7.20

- Film, sm'b'd(VV)
- Film(Pds)
- Open night(Nlk)
- Council meeting (A2.00p)

9 Rise 5.28, set 7.21

- Church services
- Film, sm'b'd(VV7.30p)

10 Rise 5.29, set 7.21

- Housie (LC)
- Film (Nlk)
- Sm'b'd (SP)

11 Rise 5.30, set 7.21

- Films(Pds & LC)
- Darts(RSL)
- C'm'dants Dinner (7.30G)

12 Rise 5.30, set 7.21

- Film, sm'b'd(VV)
- Film(Pds)
- Open Night(Nlk)

16 Rise 5.34, set 7.21

- Church services
- Film, sm'b'd(VV7.30p)

17 Rise 5.35, set 7.21

- Housie(LC)
- Film(Nlk)
- Sm'b'd(SP)

18 Rise 5.36, set 7.20

- Films(Pds & LC)
- Darts(RSL)
- C'm'dants Dinner (7.30G)

19 Rise 5.37, set 7.20

- Film, sm'b'd(VV)
- Film(Pds)
- Open night(Nlk)

23 Rise 5.40, set 7.19

- Church services
- Film, sm'b'd(VV7.30p)

24 Rise 5.41, set 7.19

- Housie(LC)
- Film(Nlk)
- Sm'b'd(SP)

25 Rise 5.42, set 7.18

- Films(Pds & LC)
- Darts(RSL)
- C'm'dants Dinner (7.30G)

26 Rise 5.42, set 7.18

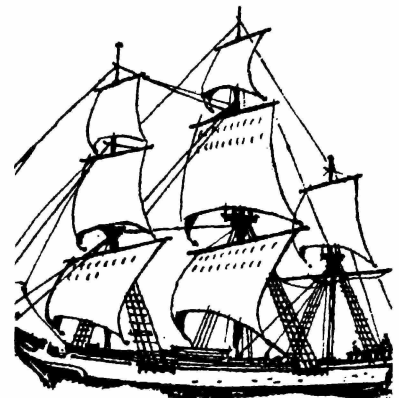
- Film, sm'b'd(VV)
- Film(Pds)
- Open night(Nlk)

30 Rise 5.46, set 7.16

- Church services
- Film, sm'b'd(VV7.30p)

31 Rise 5.47, set 7.15

- Housie(LC)
- Film(Nlk)
- Sm'b'd(SP)



PUBLIC HOLIDAY

CALENDAR

JANUARY 1977

THU

6 Rise 5.26, set 7.20

- Housie(LC)
- BBQ(SP)
- Film(RSL8.00p)
- Rotary(Nlk6.30p)



FRI

7 Rise 5.27, set 7.21

- Film (RSL 8p.)
- Open Night (Pds)

SAT

8 Rise 5.27, set 7.21

- SDA service
- Housie(RSL8.00p)

key

Rise - Sunrise
set - Sunset
a - a.m.
p - p.m.

13 Rise 5.31, set 7.21

- Housie(LC)
- BBQ(SP)
- Film(RSL8.00p)
- Rotary(Nlk6.30p)



14 Rise 5.32, set 7.21

- Film(RSL8.00p)
- Open night(Pds)

15 Rise 5.33, set 7.21

- SDA service
- Housie (RSL 8p.)

LOCATIONS

A - Administration Building
BP - Burnt Pine
BC - Bowling Club
BCP - BiCentennial Park
BH - Branka House
C - Catholic Church
CE - All Saints
EB - Emily Bay
G - Garrison Rest.
GC - Golf Club
H - Hospital
KO - Kingston Oval
Lib - Library
LC - Leagues Club
LK - Lime Kiln BBQ
M - Museum Building
MC - Methodist Church
Nlk - Norfolk Hotel
Pds - Paradise
PH - Pitcairners Hall
RH - Rawson Hall
RSL - R.S.L. Club
Scl - N.I. School
SDA - 7th Day Adv. Hall
SP - South Pacific
StB - St. Barnabas Chapel
SW - Simons Water
VV - Valley View
YC - Youth Centre

20 Rise 5.37, set 7.20

- Housie(LC)
- BBQ(SP)
- Film(RSL8.00p)
- Rotary(Nlk6.30p)



21 Rise 5.38, set 7.20

- Film(RSL8.00p)
- Open night(Pds)

22 Rise 5.39, set 7.19

- SDA service
- Housie(RSL8.00p)

27 Rise 5.43, set 7.17

- Housie(LC)
- BBQ(SP)
- Film(RSL8.00p)
- Rotary(Nlk6.30p)



28 Rise 5.44, set 7.17

- Film(RSL8.00p)
- Open night(Pds)

29 Rise 5.45, set 7.16

- SDA service
- Housie(RSL8.00p)

HISTORIC ANNIVERSARIES IN JANUARY

Jan. 1, 1854 Queen Victoria renames Van Diemen's Land 'Tasmania'.

Jan. 8, 1789 Norfolk King, 1st. child born on Norfolk to King & Ann Inett

Jan. 12, 1790 "Bounty" reaches Pitcairn

Jan. 17, 1859 Pitcairn resettled, 16 returning to Pitcairn

Jan. 19, 1845 Two "Bounty" cannons raised from sea at Pitcairn

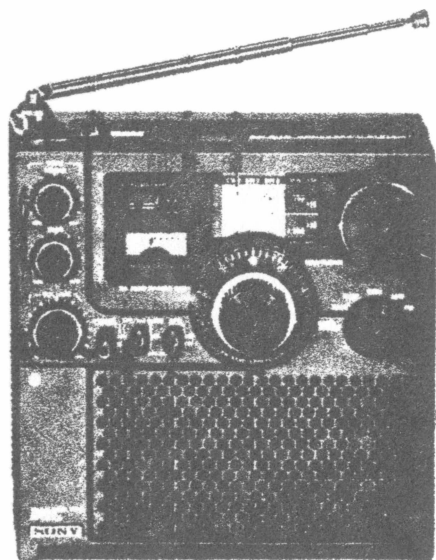
Jan. 23, 1790 "Bounty" burned

Jan. 26, 1808 Officers of NSW mutiny Gov. Bligh.

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ICF5900W

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FM/MW/SW1-2-3 5-band portable radio

FEATURES

- Crystal oscillator is built-in for accurate tuning at 250kHz intervals with the main tuning dial mechanism; in addition, with the SW sub-tuning-dial, 10kHz frequency adjustments for precision tuning are also possible
- Ultra sensitive, noiseless SW reception thanks to the double conversion super-heterodyne circuitry ordinarily used in professional sets
- Wide SW band with 3.9 - 28MHz
- Gyro-drive system incorporated in the main tuning dial mechanism for precise and smooth tuning
- Built-in BFO for stable, clear reception of SSB and CW signals
- An FET is used for the FM front end for sensitive, interference-free FM reception
- FM AFC switch: AM Local/DX (distance) sensitivity switch for clear, stable AM reception
- 10 cm speaker delivers 2200mW (max.) powerful power output
- Bass and treble separate tone controls for desired tone quality
- Dial light button lights up the tuning meter and tuning scale
- Jacks for earphone, recording, multiplex, external power, and for timer-in

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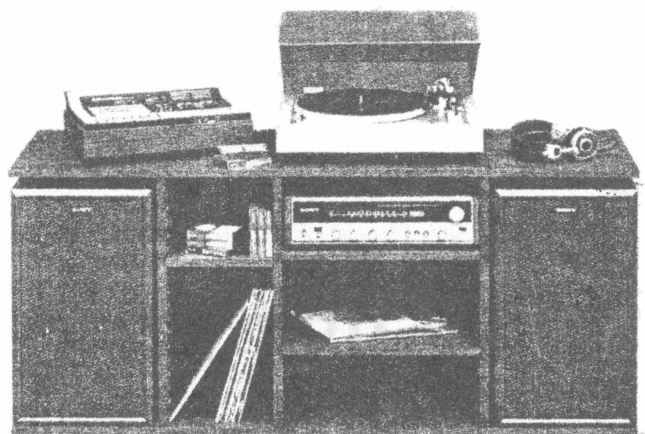
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emeralds, sapphires
opals
and amber from the Baltic Sea

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NORFOLK RADIO

World News 7.30, 8, 8.30, 12.30, 1, 2, 2.30, 3, 3.30
Local News 7.40, 8.40, 10, 12, 1.05

MONDAY

9.15 Frank Muir Goes Into
10.05 Down Memory Lane
10.45 Morning Serial
11.00 Concert Half-Hour
12.05 Book Reviews
4-7.00 Shut Down
7.00 Light Music/Pop
8.30 Country & Western
9.00 Top of the Pops
10.00 Live Concert
10.30 Close

TUESDAY

9.15 Melody Time
10.05 Music from Shows/
Films
10.45 Morning Serial
11.00 Notes from the Past
11.30 The Paramor Sound
12.05 BBC Sports Mag.
1.15 Methodist Prog.
4-7.00 Shut Down
7.00 Sentimental Jour-
ney - Jazz Evening
7.30 Bits & Pieces
8.00 Feature artist-
Louis Armstrong

8.30 Bruce's Beat

9.00 Jazz show

10.30 Close

WEDNESDAY

9.15 Education Prog.
10.05 Drama
10.45 Morning Serial/
Hospital Prog.
12.05 World Affairs
2.00 (First Wed. of Mth.
only) N.I. Council
Meeting

6.00 Pick of the Week
Prog. includes Com-
edy, Drama, Book
Reviews

THURSDAY

9.15 Magazine of Arts
10.05 Drama
10.45 Morning Serial
11.00 Requests
12.05 World Affairs
Program
1.15 S.D.A. program

4-6.30 Shut Down

6.30 Light Music

7.15 Topics from
Holland

7.30 (First Thurs. in
Mth. Council Re-
broadcast)

8.00 Light Drama

8.20 Music & Interviews

9.30 Close

FRIDAY

9.15 Comedy Show

10.05 The Rolling Stones
Story

10.45 Morning Serial

11.00 Musical Hits from
Germany/Netherlands

12.05 Science/Sports

1.15 Church of Eng. Prog.

4-7.00 Shut Down

7.00 Evening of Fine
Music, includes
Aust. News in
Brief, PM with
Hugh Evans

10.15 Close

SATURDAY

10.00 Mainly Pop
11.00 Top of Pops/
Requests
12.00 Local News
1.00 Aust. News in Brief/
Sports Relay
4.00 Young Mood, in-
cludes Top Ten,
Dedications, News

6.05 Simon & G'f'nkle

6.30 Comedy

7.00 Rowdy's Roundup of
Sports Events both
Local & Overseas

7.10 Movin' Music

8.00 Drama

9.00 Variety Show

10.00 Close

SUNDAY

3.00 For your entertainment

7.00 Evening Prog. in-
cludes Children's
Story, Music Mag.,
Feature, Drama,
Classical Music

FLIGHTS

RE-CONFIRM
24 HRS AHEAD

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AIRLINE FOR DE-
LAYS OR LATE
CHANGES:

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AIR NZ 2195

N.I.A. 2328

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QANTAS AIRLINES

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Arr. Dep.

Mon-Sat 12.45-1.45

Sun 3.15 4.15

Extra flights Sun 2nd, 9th

& 16th Arr 12.45 D.1.45

Wed.26th 3.45-4.45

AUCKLAND

AIR NEW ZEALAND

DAILY except Tuesday

Arr. 10.30 Dep. 12.15

BRISBANE

AND LORD HOWE ISLAND

NORFOLK ISLAND AIRLINES

Dep. Arr.

Monday 8.30 -

Tuesday - -

Wednesday - 2.30*

Thursday 8.30* 5.15

Friday 8.30 5.15

Saturday 8.30 5.30*

Sunday 8.30* 5.15

*Indicates call at Lord Howe Is.

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VENETIAN GLASS...AND OTHER BEAUTIFUL THINGS TO HELP
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every
MONDAY
WEDNESDAY
THURSDAY
FRIDAY
SATURDAY
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destinations

and

Daily DC10 Flights
to Los Angeles
with connections
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BURNS
PHILP
TRAVEL
at Burnt Pine

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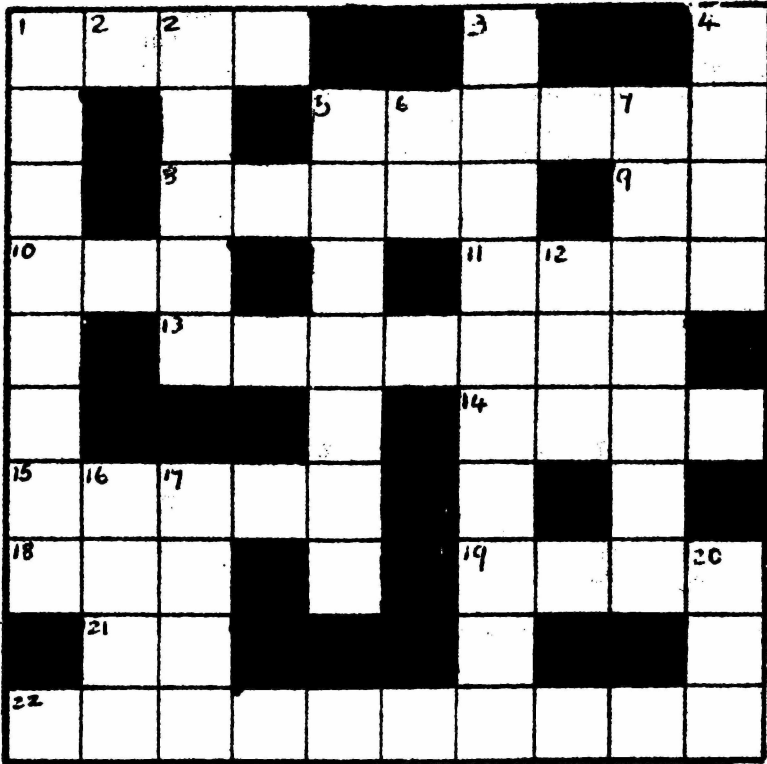
YOU'LL FIND YOUR OWN "Best Buys" depending on your own needs and purse, but The News asked some of the Island's leading importers to pick a few items they believe are particularly good value at the moment. Here's what they told us:

- Proud's: "Omega watches".
- Cameralines: "All Minolta products are being held at pre-devaluation prices until the end of January."
- Miltons: "Vivitar Point-n-shoot pocket cameras with built-in flash, from \$36.95; and the Topcon IC-1 electronic automatic SLR camera, with a full range of interchangeable lenses also available, for \$145."
- The Norfolk Trader: "The Braun Synchron-plus electric shaver for only \$31.50 - almost 40% less than recommended Aust. list price."
- The Trading Post: "We have same-

day mainland newspapers five evenings a week, planes permitting." International Duty-Free: "Olympic fishing tackle, and inflatable boats, pools and wigwams from Italy." Hibiscus Radio Service: "A large shipment of Sony, including new models, is now available on Norfolk at attractive pre-devaluation prices. Also, our weekly night of N.I. films not shown anywhere else can increase your enjoyment of your whole holiday for only \$1.50." Casa Kui: "Our jewellery and other beautiful arts from China, because of our long-standing direct connections there." Martin's Agencies: "Remington electric shavers and hot combs, on sale at good shops in Burnt Pine" Kamak Trading: "Casio, the big calculator company, have just introduced Casiotron electronic watches. They are on sale at Pacific Hire Cars, from just \$75."

NORFOLK WORDS

- ACROSS
- 1. Single
- 5. Spring
- 8. Vegetation
- 9. Not off
- 10. Animal
- 11. Sin
- 13. Fruit
- 14. Reputed to be plain
- 15. Related to camel
- 18. Not any
- 19. Allows
- 21. Measure
- 22. Historic road
- DOWN
- 1. Ruin at Kingston
- 2. Kingfisher
- 3. Island delicacy
- 4. Sesame
- 5. River in Maryland
- 6. Alternatively
- 7. Tropical palm
- 12. Girl's name
- 16. Taking place of
- 17. Town on Bay of Fundy
- 20. Plant



PITCAIRN AND NORFOLK stamps, 1st day covers



Back issues - variety of sets DeCHESNE'S STORE - Hospital Corner Note - DeChesne's is also stockist of back issues of the Norfolk Island News

PLEASE

THERE AREN'T MANY signs saying "Don't..." on Norfolk Island. And there are even fewer policemen. But it will make you even more welcome if you bear in mind a few points: When the weather has been dry for a long time, please drive s-l-o-w-l-y down dirt roads. Even at 20 mph you can throw up a thick trail of dust. That may not worry you, but what it does to clean washing, hanging on a line behind a hedge, is heartbreaking to a housewife. If you are a spearfisherman, find a boat to take you out past the reef. Spearguns aren't allowed inside the reef. When the weather is wet, please believe signs saying "Road Impassable When Wet". If you drive ahead, you'll rip up the road surface for the future, and may well have a long, muddy walk to get someone to tow you out.

SEND THE NORFOLK ISLAND NEWS TO FRIENDS AND FAMILY ABROAD AIRMAIL (including interesting Norfolk Island stamps as postage) AUSTRALIA only \$10 a year N. Z. \$A16 a year/U. K. \$A24

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Ideally situated - easy walk to the centre of town - convenient if you don't wish to hire a car. Natural pine surroundings. Fully equipped, with all modern conveniences, including linen. \$16 a night for two, extra persons \$5 night. Apply your Travel Agent.

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\$200 under
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Seiko sold the world's first quartz wristwatch. And Seiko even makes every part of every watch (except for the battery) to ensure impeccable quality control and a superb product. Whatever Seiko Quartz model you select, you get more than just a technologically advanced timepiece. You get the watch that's changing the world's standard of accuracy. Seiko Quartz. 

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our tourist industry. The tourist industry is our only significant way of bringing new, outside income into Norfolk Island. We are keenly aware of the need to keep the growth of tourism under control, so that it does not spoil the Island, but the entire Island needs the income that the industry yields. I do not think there

**"I DO NOT BELIEVE NORFOLK
CAN RISK A GAMBLE WITH ITS
ONLY REAL INDUSTRY"**

is any question but that heavy added taxes would make Norfolk Island much less competitive in the tourist industry. It might hurt the Island only moderately; it might hurt it very greatly; but I do not believe Norfolk can risk a gamble with its only real industry. It is in competition with New Caledonia, Singapore, Fiji, Honolulu, and Australian and New Zealand resorts -- and the competition is very close indeed. Our tourist industry should be nurtured and encouraged. It must not be made less competitive.

4. Hospital. Part of the Norfolk Island way of life is that we have our own 17 bed hospital, with a full-time doctor, a part-time doctor, and various consulting doctors that call in to the Island from time to time. The hospital is regularly inspected by mainland authorities, and they give it very high ratings. More important than ratings, the hospital gives a kind of patient care that is personal and neighbourly.

The Nimmo Report recommends that the hospital should be taken out of our hands, and become a Commonwealth Government Hospital. Presumably it would then be run according to Commonwealth Government procedure manuals governing procedures, duties, rights, hours, reporting, and a great array of other details. These may be necessary in large mainland hospital systems. I believe that on Norfolk Island they would lead to a work-to-regulations attitude, and would lessen the wonderful degree of genuine concern for patients that exists now.

5. School. An important part of the Norfolk Island way of life is our school, which goes up through to fourth form. It is a great source of pride and of community involvement. It is staffed with teachers on leave from the N. S. W. school system, and follows the N. S. W. Department of Education curricula. Norfolk Island youngsters who go on for further schooling almost always go to Sydney, and they fit right into the school

system in N. S. W. For some years now, every single student in the senior class at our school has passed the N. S. W. examinations for that educational level.

Incidentally, Norfolk pays for the teachers' salaries and their transport to and from Norfolk.

The Nimmo Report recommends that this good relationship with the N. S. W. education system be continued - but with one new addition, namely that the school would be placed under the supervision of the Commonwealth Department of Education.

That Department made a submission to the Royal Commission that was, in many ways, seriously critical of our school. We on the Island believed, and I think with good reason, that the criticism was unjust and reflected a lack of familiarity with the facts. That is the Department which it is proposed would take charge of the N. S. W. people who actually run the school.

N. S. W. seems to be happy to help Norfolk on the present basis. But if they are required to accept Commonwealth supervision, I am quite sure that very soon they would say, "We can't work this way. If the Commonwealth wants to run it, let them run it. We are withdrawing."

6. Social benefits. An important part of the Norfolk Island way of life, as I have said before, is that we take care of our own. To mention just one example, a comparison between a typical elderly person on Norfolk and a typical old-age pensioner in Sydney or Melbourne would show a remarkable contrast. The Norfolk Island way of life provides an older person with a kind of affection and support and acceptance that make the mainland pension system look almost degrading by comparison - this support includes weekly payments of cash, financed by Norfolk Island, which are set from time to time at levels that we believe are reasonable for Island conditions.

**" THE NORFOLK ISLAND WAY
OF LIFE WORKS, ON NORFOLK "**

The Nimmo Report recommends that all Australian Social Service Benefits be applied on Norfolk. Yet Sir John Nimmo said that he could find no hardship on Norfolk. That is quite a rare and fine state of affairs, in this day and age. The Norfolk Island way of life works, on Norfolk Island. It does not need to be changed over for some other system, however "modern" that new system is supposed to be.

7. Voting. Part of the Norfolk Island way of life is that we vote for a local Council to represent us. There is great interest in the Council's activities, and the regularly monthly meetings are broadcast in full - once "live" and again the following evening, for people who could not listen to the first broadcast.

There has been serious concern on the Island for some years that our Council has no executive authority, but can only advise an Administrator sent from Australia. We would like to elect people who could manage Island affairs themselves. We do not, frankly, maintain regular interest or awareness of mainland politics, and certainly don't feel we should have any say in them.

The Nimmo Report recommends that Norfolk Island be put into the electorate of Canberra. This is simply ridiculous. It would not give us representation except in a meaningless, legal way. Among other things, it would be an intrusion on our part into Canberra affairs, which could not be welcomed and which we would not want.

**"ONE OF THE CORNERSTONES
OF OUR WAY OF LIFE..."**

8. Land Ownership & Land Use. One of the most important parts of the Norfolk Island way of life is our attachment to the land. It is probably our dearest possession. We feel a very deep need to control it ourselves.

The Nimmo Report recommends that the Commonwealth Government should have all control of all land matters, including zoning and town planning. This would be a basic change in one of the cornerstones of the Norfolk Island way of life.

9. Workers Regulations. A part of the Norfolk Island way of life is that many people have several jobs, perhaps none of them full-time. Wherever one works on Norfolk, or whatever the job is, it is Norfolk practice to lend a hand where a hand is needed.

The Nimmo Report recommends that workers compensation rules, International Labor Organisation conventions, and much of the machinery needed for union demarcation regulations and dispute handling, be extended into Norfolk Island. We don't have strikes and tie-ups and disputes. There are often disagreements and sometimes dissatisfactions, but the Norfolk system works very well on the Island. As one example the Island's lighterage and stevedore crews handle cargo from ship to the shore for far less than the same

operation would cost in the port of Sydney using the marvellous power equipment they have at their disposal.

10. The right to return to the Island. It has been a tradition for generations on Norfolk that this was our homeland. People often have had to move away, but many of them, now living in Australia or in New Zealand, hold in their minds and hearts the thought that some day, when they can, they will move back to Norfolk Island. Because they were born here, at present they have the right to do so.

The Nimmo Report recommends that this right be abolished and immigration to the Island would be on a first-come, first-served basis, and people who now dream of "returning home" would have to take their place in the queue without any rights to residency.

11. Transport. An important part of the Norfolk Island way of life is that we have small-scale but good links with Australia and New Zealand. For air transport, we have relied for many years on the fine reliable old DC4s operated by Qantas. They will be retired in March, and small F-27s will replace them. The Norfolk Island airport may have to be upgraded to some extent if we should later shift to small F-28 jet aircraft, but we would like to keep airport extensions as small as possible. Big airports are damaging for the environment, and Norfolk Island's peaceful environment is worth preserving.

The Nimmo Report recommends not that our airport be upgraded for F-27 aircraft; not that it be upgraded for F-28 aircraft; but that it be made into a full-blown international airport capable of handling Boeing 747 jumbo jets.

There are many puzzling ideas in the Nimmo Report, but this one is among the most puzzling of all. So far as I know, no evidence given to the Royal Commission even suggested a super-jet airport. Our tourist industry does not need it, and never will, if we are to have any control over tourism.

I know of only one real purpose that would require such an airport; and that is if Norfolk Island should be turned into Australia's Offshore High Security Animal Quarantine Station.

12. Crime and punishment. An important part of the Norfolk Island way of life is that we have no major crime. We do not even have a proper gaol. We seem to get along very well without one.

The Nimmo Report recommends that a big new police station and gaol should be built, and that perhaps a

correctional institution for young criminals should be built. Sir John Nimmo says that our attitudes toward crime and punishment are not as sophisticated as on the mainland, and he apparently wants us to get in step with these mainland ideas.

Sir, those are not all the recommendations of the Nimmo Report, but those twelve represent massive changes in a way of life we have treasured for generations.

We do not want our way of life replaced by another way of life.

By all that is fair and decent in modern civilisation, I believe Norfolk Island is entitled to retain and preserve its way of life unless one of three causes can be shown.

First Australia might have the right to change our way of life if it could be shown that, by being different, we are causing harm to others particularly Australia.

For a number of years, Australia might have argued that this was indeed the case. During those years, outsiders discovered that Norfolk Island's relatively simple laws could be used to their advantage. The Island became a tax haven that apparently cost the Australian Government many millions or dollars in taxes that otherwise may have been payable.

"THE TAX HAVEN IS OVER"

But the tax haven is over - dead and gone. Sir John Nimmo is, among other things, a tax expert, and the longest section of the Royal Commission Report is the one discussing Norfolk's history as a tax haven. Having investigated in very, very great detail, Sir John concluded as follows and I quote from the Report: "In so far as income tax avoidance is concerned the overwhelming body of abuses has now been stopped. Taxation Office investigators will be able to take any necessary steps to curb or eliminate whatever tax avoidance activities remain".

In the summary of recommendations in the Report, there are 74 recommendations for Norfolk Island. Under the heading of Guideline (g), "The extent to which Norfolk Island has been and is being used to provide a base for activities (e.g. income tax, gift duty and death duty avoidance or evasion) which are harmful to the interests of Australia or of other countries," Sir John Nimmo did not feel it was necessary to make one single recommendation.

Second, Australia might have the right to change our way of life if we were harming ourselves, and should be stopped from doing so.

Sir John Nimmo searched and found no way in which this is so - he found no activity which could be said to be harmful to ourselves.

Third, Australia might have the right to change our way of life if we had in some way offended against the world, or Australia, and were behaving in some way that called for punishment.

Sir John Nimmo in various parts of his Report expresses a personal distaste for people on Norfolk Island, but I think we are simply different from some others. I do not really believe he would say that it is for Australia to punish us.

If we are not harming others, if we are not harming ourselves, and if we are not deserving of punishment, I believe it is morally wrong for Australia to destroy a way of life that has been followed for generations on Norfolk Island and is treasured by all the people.

There is one other possible ground on which great changes might be imposed on our way of life. That would be if Australia believed the changes would actually improve our way of life, and that we ought to be forced to try them for a few years and see whether we liked them, with the understanding that if the changes proved to be harmful, they would be un-done.

That is not what the Nimmo Report proposes.

If Australia reduces our need to support ourselves; if Australia abolishes our simple laws and imposes complicated new ones; if Australia increases our costs by requiring us to pay full Australian taxes as well as our own in direct taxes and levies -- perhaps wrecking our tourist industry in the process; if Australia takes our hospital out of our hands; if Australia disrupts our good relationship with the N. S. W. Department of Education; if Australia gets us accustomed to receiving benefit cheques; if Australia forces us to vote in Canberra; if Australia takes over all powers over our land; if Australia allows and introduces mainland-style strife in our work force; if Australia removes the right of our people to come home; if Australia builds a Boeing 747 airport in the middle of the Island, and gives us a big concrete gaol and police station -- Australia will have permanently ruined our present way of life. It could not conceivably be an experiment that could be

un-done.

Sir, you might ask me how do I know the people of Norfolk Island would agree with these views?

I would answer that I feel absolutely positive that almost every person on the Island would agree, but I would add that the only real way to prove this would be to let the people of the Island speak for themselves in a Referendum.

"ATTEMPTS BEING MADE...
TO RESIST OR BLOCK
A REFERENDUM"

It is with deep regret and concern that I find attempts being made in official quarters to resist or block a Referendum.

We are being told that there should not be a Referendum -- because the times are so confusing. We are told that the people cannot appraise issues calmly. We are told that a Referendum is not really wanted by the majority. We are told it would be pandering to a minority. We are told it would be costly. We are told it would be time-consuming. Worst of all we are told that the Nimmo recommendations are not matters concerning the peace, order and good government of Norfolk Island, on which the Governor General may make ordinances.

Sir, with the deepest respect, those are the sort of reasons that are given in dictatorships, for not holding Referenda. Australia is not a dictatorship. Norfolk Island is not planning anything sinister. What are these people afraid of? A Referendum only costs a few hundred dollars. It only takes a few months. Why do these people want to keep the citizens of Norfolk Island silent? What are their reasons?

It is an appalling statement for anyone who knows anything of Norfolk Island or of the Nimmo Report to pretend that its recommendations are not matters affecting the peace, order and good government of Norfolk Island, on which the Governor General may make ordinances.

The people of this Island have the right to a Referendum, and whatever moves may be made to resist or block that right, I intend as President of Committees and as an elected representative of the people to see that they have that right protected. I will use whatever ability and strength I have to see that the electors of this Island have the opportunity to ask for a Referendum. If the required number of electors ask for it, I will

use whatever strength I have to see that such a Referendum is held, whatever may be done to resist or block it.

I will also do whatever I can to see that such a Referendum is held only after the people have had adequate time to think carefully about the issues, and to become clear in their own minds.

I do not believe this can be done by January 17, which is the deadline arbitrarily laid down by the Minister for the comments of this Council on the Nimmo Report. I believe it may take two or perhaps three months longer than that. Sir John took much longer than that to prepare his report and recommendations -- what's the hurry?

Until the people have this chance to speak, in the privacy of a polling booth, I wish to state my absolute conviction that any actions taken by the Commonwealth Government to begin changing our way of life by putting any of Sir John Nimmo's recommendations into effect must be recognised as an indefensible intrusion against human rights.

I am sure that the individuals in the Australian Public Service who would be in a position to start implementing the Report are decent and fair persons with a keen awareness of human rights.

I feel sure that if they understand the facts they will put off taking any immediate actions.

"I CALL FOR EVERY OTHER
DECENT AUSTRALIAN..."

But if they should commence putting the Report into effect before the people of Norfolk Island have had a chance to express their beliefs in privacy and on a ballot paper, I call as earnestly as I can for every other decent Australian to prevent a completely unwarranted violation of the reasonable human rights of the 1600 people on Norfolk Island.

There is nothing in our way of life that is harming others. We are not harming ourselves. We do not need punishing.

There is no morally defensible reason for urgency in implementing even one bit of the Report. The people deserve to be heard, and a reasonable time should be allowed for them to think and then to vote.

I will conclude by saying how I believe the Nimmo Report should be used, and by saying generally what I believe the future of Norfolk

Island should be.

A report laying out a plan for the future of a place should have a central theme - a set of clear beliefs and purposes that run through the report.

I believe that if you remove the harmful ideas from the Nimmo Report, there is no central theme or belief or purpose left. The constructive ideas in the Nimmo Report do not add up to any clear vision of the future; they are merely a collection of ideas, with no common purpose.

"I ASK THAT THE NIMMO
REPORT BE LAID ASIDE
IN SHAPING THIS ISLAND'S
FUTURE"

It may be thought that we should start with those constructive ideas, at least, and work from them. I truthfully believe that sorting out the good from the bad in the Report would require far more work for Australia and for ourselves, and would involve far more risk to the Norfolk Island way of life, than if the Report is simply laid aside, in favour of some more sound approach that does have a central theme and purpose. I ask that the Nimmo Report be laid aside in shaping this Island's future.

I believe that a sound alternative approach does in fact exist, and can be built on, although it still requires thought and effort to perfect it.

In a sensible and workable vision of Norfolk Island's future, I would hope we may be permitted to remain a Territory of Australia, receiving guidance and help in matters in which we are inexperienced. I also hope we may continue to receive some modest financial help if we can't do for ourselves, and if Australia can afford it. I stress the word "modest".

I do not believe there is the slightest wish for independence among the vast majority of the people of the Island.

I believe that a new form of local self-government, such as the Norfolk Island Council proposed after much study and knowledge of local matters, would be workable. I think it would put most of the responsibility for Norfolk Island on the shoulders of the Norfolk Island people. I think it would not only be acceptable to Australia, but should prove to be a source of satisfaction to Australia.

Many details of the local self-

SEAL WITH A BIT X OF STICKY TAPE

government plan asked for by the Council need to be looked at closely, and considered with wisdom. There is no need for, and there should not be, any undue haste. I would hope Australia would be willing to sit down with us, and try to help us work out the details well, in the course of this new year.

I wish to end these remarks with an expression of respect for a great nation that has done much for Norfolk Island and its people in the past. We appreciate what Australia has done for us. We are able very largely to support ourselves, and we are not beggars. We would like to remain in close association with Aust-

ralia.
We need Australia.
But even more than that, we need our Island and our way of life.
I hope with all my heart that we may keep our Island, and our way of life, and at the same time keep our close ties with Australia too.

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SENDER:

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Australia

TO: _____

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SPACE FOR PERSONAL MESSAGE

COUNCIL TRANSCRIPT

FOR NORFOLK-WATCHERS
WHO LIKE KNOWING WHAT
COUNCILLORS REALLY SAID,
AND WHERE THEY STAND

SINCE THE NIMMO Report first arrived on the Island, all of the eight elected members of Council have felt that a Referendum on its main objectives would be necessary.

The Island has many residents who are ready and able to speak up or to write letters -- but they don't necessarily reflect what the "silent majority" may be feeling.

At first, Councillors were generally hesitating to express their own views about the Report, hoping that soon they would be able to sense what most people wanted.

But as the Nimmo recommendations started being put into effect by Australia, without waiting for Council's or the people's views, each Councillor stood up and declared what he believed himself.

The most comprehensive view was put by President of Committees Bill Blucher, whose Dec. 10th address is reprinted elsewhere in this issue.

Cr. McIntyre had expressed himself as being strongly opposed to the changes Sir John Nimmo proposes for Norfolk.

On December 1st, Cr. Quintal took a firm stand against the Report. He became ill soon afterward, and made no further long statements in December.

On December 16th, all other Councillors made it perfectly clear how they regard the Report. This issue of Council Transcript sets out these various official position statements.

COUNCILLOR

GREG QUINTAL

Cr. Quintal: "...Well, Mr. Chairman, the Pitcairn Islanders arrived from Pitcairn Island on Norfolk Island 120 years ago, and up till now we have managed to moreorless manage our own affairs.

"It is my strong belief that we could continue to run our own affairs and I think we are quite capable of doing it.

"I have studied the Nimmo Report and I find this Report most confusing. In the Report on page 72 - No. 6 Land Interests of Residents whereby Sir John Nimmo criticizes the Pit-

cairn descendants for selling their land. Then, in another breath, he has recommended that 120 metres be taken away from the foreshores, whichever is the greater from the top of the cliff or from the shore line.

"If we start and have a look at the land that he proposes to take over... if we go from Music Valley and follow the coastline right round on top of Cascade cliff, I find that approximately six mainlanders own the land around there and over 20 Islanders own the rest of the land - all except one area or parcel of land in all that area is leasehold property which is under the Commonwealth Government at present.

"If we take the area from Kingston going around towards Headstone that includes a lot of other freehold properties - the mainlanders own four properties there and the rest belong to... approximately 13 sections of land will be involved.

"I can't understand why he criticizes the Pitcairn descendants for doing something and then on the other hand he wants to take further land away from the people.

"During the last war, when they were building the airstrip up here, the Government resumed a lot of land and some of the land that was resumed the persons who owned the land were paid a grand sum of £5 an acre. I don't think my figure is wrong because my wife was involved in a piece of land that was taken away from her.

"Besides taking away land for the airstrip, they also took away a lot of land and then it was turned into Government lease, and I'm wondering whether the same as this that when the time comes for the Australian Government to sub-divide this land they're going to leave some of the sections so narrow that they'd be absolutely useless and I was wondering whether they'd come a little further and a little bit further as they've done in the past -- take everything they can get hold of.

"This is one thing I'm very much against the Report on.

"The other thing is a word called 'tax'... Australian taxes.

"The other thing I was going to say with regard to land, with death duties and high cost of living and a fall off in my opinion of the tourist

trade and the increases in all commodities, I'm wondering how much more land that the people of the Island would lose if we adopted all aspects of the Nimmo Report.

"It is my belief that the only fair way of finding out what the people want is through a referendum. When it suited the Australian Government to put a quarantine station, or they wanted to install a quarantine station on Norfolk Island, we quickly had a referendum, and it is my strong belief that if the Nimmo Report is accepted that is exactly what we'll be getting on Norfolk Island very soon - that is a quarantine station - that is my opinion.

"I cannot for the life of me think why Australia wants to hold on to this place - she gave New Guinea independence whereby they've got something to offer - we've got nothing so there must be a good reason and I don't know what it is.

"The other thing is, at no time that I can remember have we asked Australia or the Commonwealth Government to spend any money on the Island -- they've done it themselves. Any money that they have spent, well they've spent it and that's that. We've never asked for it and neither have we asked for the Nimmo Report.

"That's all I have to say Mr. Chairman."

COUNCILLOR

DUNCAN MCINTYRE

I'm speaking of course for myself and I do support the remarks of Cr. Blucher in this regard -- that the Report is not sound -- that if you strike it it doesn't ring... it makes the noise of a cracked cup.

"I therefore believe that the presentation of our views, based on that figure of \$2.5 million, is essential - I believe that these views are forwarded to Canberra before a decision is made in terms of question 1, in order that there might be a consideration of this very fundamental point.

"I go on to make three further comments, Mr. Chairman, on matters that you raised.

"In one sense it is a matter beyond the essence of the question - whether either the hospital or the school retain their former cheerfulness and efficiency, because the

Nimmo Report recommends that the Commonwealth take these over for no other reason than to take them out of Norfolk Island hands and integrate them into mainland forms.

"I do not read the Nimmo Report as concluding that as they stand either the school or the hospital is badly run. I read exactly to the contrary. Consequently why it should be that we should therefore, on a proven record, have our hospital and our school -- sources of great local pride -- taken away from us and handed over to the administration of others is to me the most central question -- why should what we have be integrated into a mainland form that's a thousand miles away. I see no logic in that - I see no desirability in that - and I respect a very strong local wish to retain these things.

"Finally, Mr. Chairman, you said that voting in Canberra is simply ridiculous - you quoted Cr. Blucher's words. I am reminded, however, that Cr. Blucher said that if we were part of the Canberra electorate, we would also be wrongly interfering with the electors of Canberra... that if I were an elector in Canberra I would have cause to resent the election of my local representative being decided on an island 1200 miles away, whose purposes and causes and problems were nothing of my own, whose island and rural atmosphere had nothing to do with my heavily urbanized situation, and whose outlook and whose feelings followed completely different courses for completely different reasons to my own.

"I therefore believe that the point of being represented in the mainland electorate is mutually difficult, mutually undesirable.

"You asked, Mr. Chairman, if we didn't like that suggestion could we propose an alternative. Well, I also agree with Cr. Blucher on this proposition that the way that you find alternatives is in the course of dialogue not in the course of half-baked solutions, theories, ideas or suggestions that I could loosely throw on the table.

"For those reasons, Mr. Chairman... I believe that at the present time we have no better statement than the statement of Cr. Blucher at the last meeting..."

COUNCILLOR

LISLE SNELL

Cr. Snell: "...I'd just like to comment on the motion put by Cr. Blucher, and this motion has placed me

in a dual position.

"As I specified earlier, my principal view was that I had intended to recommend that we adopt the Royal Commission Report in part, subject to certain changes, and these were as I mentioned previously that the recommendations contained in the Nimmo Report be adopted subject to the following modifications:

1. The residents of Norfolk Island and not being included in the electorate of Canberra.

2. Norfolk Island retains the right to impose its own taxes and other imposts upon the citizens of Norfolk Island, and out of local revenue provide for such social benefits to the residents of Norfolk Island as the local Assembly deems appropriate. Perhaps a trial period of 5 years on this basis can be negotiated.

3. That over the next 5 years the residents of Norfolk Island be groomed to assume a greater degree of control over their own affairs.

4. That the government of immigration into Norfolk Island remain with the Assembly and not be tied to the Racial Discrimination Act.

5. That assurance be given that land matters remain at the present status quo for the period of at least 5 years.

"On further investigations on the Report, Mr. Chairman, it does appear that others share my view that parts of this Report recommended are workable and acceptable.

"I am a man, Mr. Chairman, who respects success and I therefore respect Sir John's Report.

"I, of course, differ in view on some of his recommendations, and I plead, Mr. Chairman, for a trial basis for Council to implement certain aspects of self-government, namely those recommendations I mentioned above.

"The second, of course, is the above motion that seeks to adopt Cr. Blucher's speech as a basis for Council guidelines and discussions.

"I am uncertain as to how the Department of Administrative Services and the Inter-Departmental Committee handling these affairs will act on this information -- whether they will take the attitude 'well, we gave them the chance' and go ahead and act on this Report regardless, which they have already indicated that they will do and more important appears legally able to.

"I am in favour of the recommendations for the general Assembly...

"If we lay aside this Report, we lay aside this important recommen-

dation, but to counteract it it can be said that this recommendation was also the wish of the previous Council and previous Australian Government in their efforts to seek executive authority for Norfolk Island.

"Perhaps the same line of negotiations enjoyed previously can be re-opened.

"Mr. Chairman, my whole basis of discussion is for the peace, order and good government of Norfolk Island.

"I seek the continued Australian support and good will for Norfolk Island."

COUNCILLOR

GEOFF BENNETT

Cr. Bennett: "Sir, I fully support the motion of Cr. Blucher and in doing so I applaud his tenacity with which he's applied himself in the compilation of his views at the December 10th meeting, which has been subsequently produced in a document form.

"It's obvious, if the comments of the document are to be any indication, that there is overwhelming support from the electors for this document and what it spells out. Conclusive evidence of the support can only be obtained by a referendum. I fail to appreciate the efforts of the powers that be in trying to forestall or block any attempt at holding a referendum, nor can I accept Sir John Nimmo's remarks that there should not be a referendum because the times are so confusing because the people cannot appraise the issues calmly - because it is not really wanted by the majority - because it is pandering to the minority - because it's costly - because the Nimmo recommendations are not matters concerning the peace, order and good government of Norfolk Island and on which the Governor General may make ordinances.

"Sir, this is indicative of lack of regard held for the people of this Island and the attitude astonishes me.

"The life-style of a proud people built up over many generations is about to be thrown out and we are virtually being asked to sit up and take it calmly.

"I vigorously support Cr. Blucher's conviction that any action taken by the Commonwealth Government to begin changing our way of life by putting any of Sir John Nimmo's recommendations into effect until

the people have been given the chance to speak in the privacy of a polling booth must be recognized as an indefensible intrusion against human rights.

"Sir, we have already evidenced some of this intrusion in the form of the appointment of East-West Airlines to succeed Qantas on the Sydney to Norfolk Island air service, despite the assurance of the Minister (reference memorandum 1/17/36) to allow Council to express its views on the Report of the Royal Commission on Norfolk Island before any decisions were taken by the Government.

"We have clearly been deceived.

"While this one decision forms only a minuscule part of the complete recommendation, the very principle of this Council - and indeed the people of Norfolk Island - being requested to lodge its views before any implementation has been eroded away.

"To have introduced this feeling of mistrust at this time is indeed sad. Sad, because we believed that we would be able to put forward sound ideas and views to the Department and/or the I.D.C., thus creating a dialogue without being pre-judged.

"One wonders whether the Government has in fact already accepted the Sir John Nimmo recommendations as read."

COUNCILLOR

BRUCE MCKENZIE

Cr. McKenzie: "I fully endorse the remarks of Cr. Blucher.

"I've weighed the pros and cons of the Nimmo Report, incidentally which weren't requested by the people of this Island.

"I've come to the conclusion it would absolutely ruin the life-style of people living here.

"Mr. Chairman, during my life I've been fortunate enough to visit many parts of the world. I've yet to see another community so well off as the people living on this Island, yet it appears to me the Australian Government or someone wants to steamroll this community into their style of life.

"I know a few department heads who'd love to have Norfolk Island under their control.

"Surely, Mr. Chairman, the Prime Minister and heads of Government don't condone the steamrolling tactics which are being applied to the Nimmo Report.

"I thought Australia was a free and democratic country where

people had freedom of speech. The people of Norfolk Island certainly aren't being given that choice.

"Mr. Chairman, I also believe there are words as human rights. I cannot see how a hundred odd local people giving evidence to a Royal Commission can change the life-style of 900 others.

"A good percentage of this Report is related to company activity which I have never been a lover of. It appears to me the whole basis behind the Nimmo Report was to find out just how much these companies were evading the Australian tax system. It should be remembered that a very few people on this Island were and are still involved in this activity.

"Mr. Chairman, I still cannot understand why Australia cannot legislate in their own country to block this activity instead of forcing more laws on this Island.

"Mr. Chairman, the people who seem to favour this Report appear to me to look only at one side. It should be remembered that this Council has been and still is working on an accident insurance scheme, a superannuation scheme, ways and means of increasing special allowance payments, the Hospital Board has looked at the possibility of setting up a local hospital benefit fund, and I can assure the public that I, as well as all Councillors, am very conscious of the need for these various benefits, but I believe sir it should be the Norfolk Island style and not the Australian way.

"I would like the Minister to lay the Nimmo Report aside and consider the following six points:

"1. Leave the Island exactly how it is for 5 years as a territory of Australia.

"2. Give the Island executive authority as requested.

"3. Let the Island introduce its own style of taxes.

"4. Let the Island up-date the special allowance scheme to a type of pension scheme.

"5. Leave land controls as they are.

"6. At the end of 5 years the Australian Government review the situation.

"Sir, it should be remembered Australia spent millions of dollars teaching Papua/New Guinea self-government. How much have they spent here helping us - very little indeed.

"I also notice they are not forcing the situation faced by us upon our sister territory, Cocos Island.

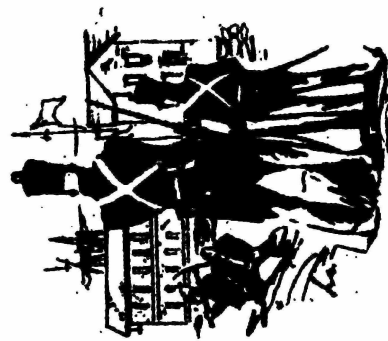
a great Norfolk Island feature - every Tuesday from 7.30 pm

THE

Commandant's Dinner

IN PERSON : GUITARIST/FOLKSINGER DON REYNOLDS SINGS THE SONGS AND CHANTEYS OF OLD NORFOLK

at The Garrison Restaurant - phone 2073



"Mr. Chairman, for the last seven years I've sat in this chair and watched this Island be bounced around like a ping-pong ball -- from one Department to another and then to another.

"How could any Council settle down and work towards peace, order and good government when there is so much uncertainty in higher places.

"Mr. Chairman, all I ask is that the Government give this Island a chance to prove itself and not be dragged into its style of life."

COUNCILLOR

ROY SMITH

Cr. Smith: "Well, Mr. Chairman, right from the start I have voiced my opinion on the Nimmo Report - I reject it on the whole.

"Being a Norfolk Islander, as I stated before, I wouldn't like to see this Island change in any way.

"I've met a lot of tourists during my occupation and I've spoken to quite a few of them and their remarks are 'don't spoil Norfolk - keep it like it is - you have one of the most unique Islands in the world and to be incorporated in any way with Australia you would lose everything'.

"I still think, Mr. Chairman, that our way of life at the moment we are enjoying to the full. We have no unemployment - we are not in financial difficulties - we are going along very happily - I'd like to see it remain like that.

"Many Councillors have given their views on it - I support them.

"Without going over the same grounds again, finally I would like to support Cr. Blucher's remarks this afternoon to the full...."

COUNCILLOR

JOHN RYVES

Cr. Ryves: "As Councillors have got away from the motion and given statements, I think perhaps it's appropriate at this stage that I give this particular statement that I've got here.

"Sir, as previously stated, I have found it most difficult to direct my mind to objective study of the Nimmo Report.

"I had hoped that the questions recently directed to the Minister would

have cleared up some of the problems worrying me and no doubt members of the community and Council.

"I believe the Minister's answers do not help in directing our thoughts constructively to this document.

"The need to know the long-term economic consequences of adoption of the Report is self-evident, and the Minister has refused to make any comments available which leads me to believe that the following situation exists.

"1. That the government in principle knows what its intentions are with regard to this Report, and

"2. That Council's advice has been sought to imply that democratic principles have been followed.

"The reasons for these conclusions are:-

"1. The Minister has not endeavoured to lay down specific guidelines to Council.

"2. The I.D.C. is dealing with the Nimmo Report as if it were an accepted document, hence the I.D.C.'s Chairman's remarks that it was not the I.D.C.'s responsibility to debate variations in the Report which indicates that the Report would be looked at only for its implications to the various Departments concerned.

"3. The Minister's undue haste to have the Report dealt with which is indicated by the short period extended to Council and the electors to research the document. This is particular strange when one refers to the Minister's statement during his visit in March when he said ample time would be given to Council to study the Report and no decision would be reached by the Government until Council's views were fully considered.

"4. The Minister's refusal to allow the electors of Norfolk Island to express their views on the Report by referendum.

Again, time is given as the excuse for not allowing this normal democratic process.

"5. When referring to the principal matters on page 5 of the Report, I submit that it is not possible to answer these statements constructively without applying qualifications to each principal matter.

"In the first statement, it is impossible to accept or reject the proposition without referring to the implication that Australia has supported Norfolk Island in the main over the past years.

"It should be made clear that the residents have contributed substantially to this support.

"In the second statement, acceptance in full or in part is difficult

when we study the anomalies of the Report as revealed in Cr. Blucher's speech, and those pointed out to the Commissioner in Council's submission.

"Sir John has chosen completely to ignore these facts and continued to build a case for his proposition on the misleading evidence given by the Department of Capital Territory....

"For these reasons I believe it is wrong for Sir John to say, as he does on pages 339-340, that Norfolk Island has no right to decide on any form of government and that Australia has the sole right in this matter.

"It is the responsibility of the Minister to the electors of Norfolk Island to set aside any further consideration of the Nimmo Report until full investigation into all facets of Cr. Blucher's speech and Council's submission to the Royal Commission have taken place.

"For these reasons also, I reject the conclusions of the Nimmo Report as not being in the best interests of Norfolk Island nor Australia, and the damage it may do in the long term to our only industry.

"I urge the Minister to look closely at Council's submission to the Royal Commission and using this as a basis try to implement over the next five years a form of government more suitable to Norfolk Island and its unique requirements.

"When doing so, to take into full account:-

"1. Use as a tax haven have been closed.

"2. Norfolk Island would be less of a financial drain to Australia if we continued to develop our own type of government which continues to tax the initiative of the residents and which places restraint on the cost of living.

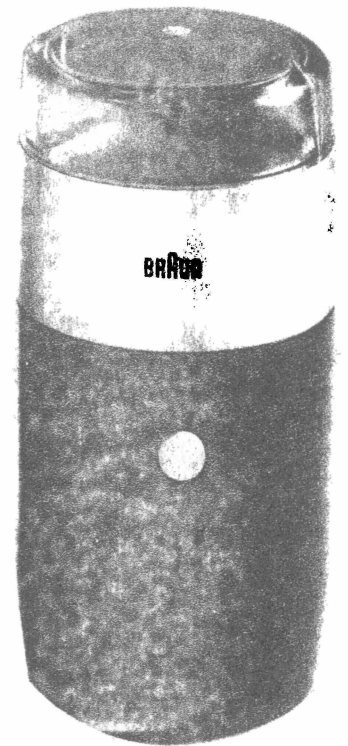
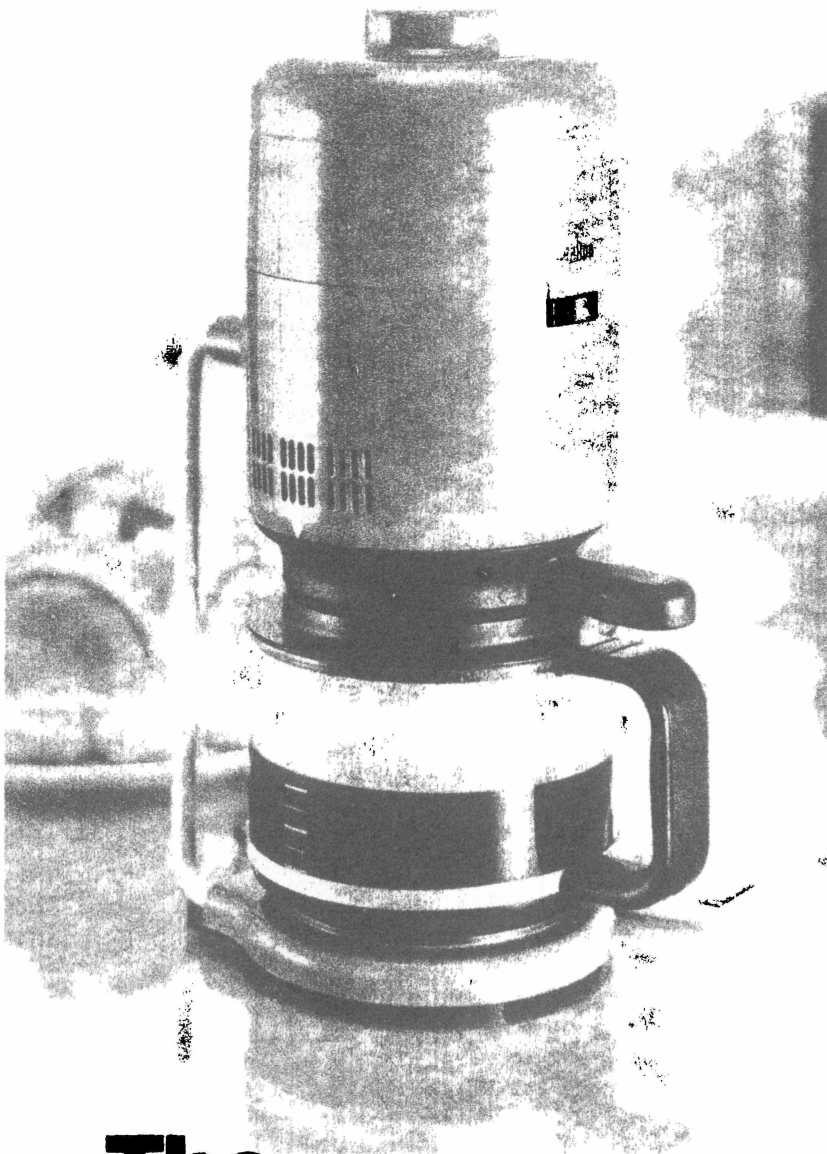
"3. The residents are suffering no specific hardship that can't be overcome by local effort.

"In conclusion, I believe it is the Minister's duty to see that Norfolk Island is not the victim of political expediency and that the basis and fabric of life in Norfolk Island is not destroyed because of this false premise.

"The Report has at least unified the community in the realization of the different life-style we have enjoyed and the greatest good that could eventuate is a form of government that preserves this difference.

"I support Cr. Blucher's speech and believing that it says what is necessary on the subject."

A SMALL INVESTMENT IN YOUR FUTURE...
and "coffee time" becomes
a ceremony, from now on



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BRAUN

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machine percolator
only \$52.50

The

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NORFOLK TRADER

questions & answers in Norfolk Garden

BY THE TIME gardeners will be reading these notes we may have been lucky and had good rains and so some of our poor thirsty-looking gardens will be looking much happier. Let hope so!

Not a great deal can be done in the gardens until we do get rain. However some winter flowering annuals may be sown in seed-boxes so as to be ready for an early planting. Any time from mid-February onwards the following may be planted - pansies, stocks, holly-hocks, antirrhinum, both old fashioned snaps and the new open-faced kind, bright butterfly being the best of these; also dianthus and carnation seed, but do not be in a hurry to plant these out - pinch back seedlings so that they are nice compact bushy plants before doing so.

If you should be the owner of a camelia bush or several of these classic beauties, perhaps they could do with pruning. Do this now before

too much new growth has started.

First cut out any rubbing branches or ones showing die-back - this could be due to dry season; secondly, clean out little spindly twigs etc. thus making room for good display of next season's flowers. If they show signs of black spot then spray for this. Sprinkle a bit of fertilizer around base of bush.

Now one is also inclined to say "must do so and so when the time is right" then forget about it until that time has come around again. I have in mind colour help for hydrangeas - soil that contains iron-stone produces blues and purples whereas alkaline soil produces the pink to red shades. Old bushes will often change colour as their roots grow deeper in soil thus encountering different conditions.

These make lovely tub specimens and maintain true colours if grown in correct mixture to start with - this is

known as a neutral mixture such as one-third each washed sand, decayed manure, leaf mould.

Blueing compound can be bought or use $\frac{1}{4}$ oz. each of sulphate aluminium / sulphate of iron in 1 gallon water. Water once a week with this.

P. S. Have you noticed the native wisteria on the trees in Peter's Highway - it is now in bloom.

IN BOND

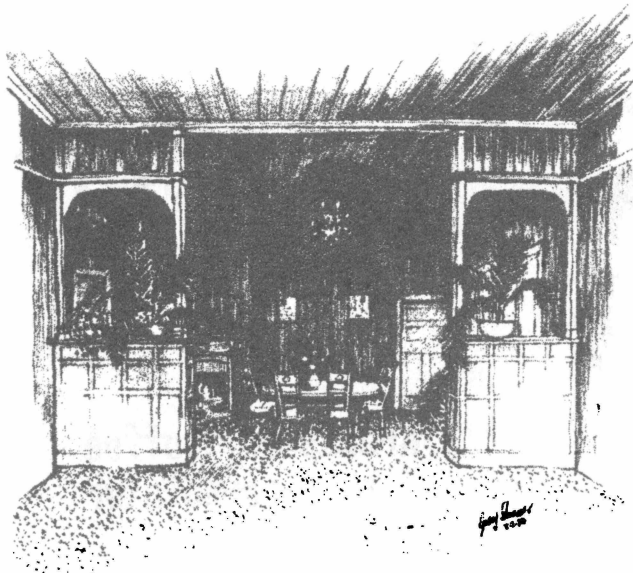
by "VINAS"

--a private view of what is offering at the Liquor Bond

NOW THE FESTIVE SEASON is behind us we should have temporarily sated our indulgence of rich things and be thinking of sparing our over-strained digestions with lighter fare more suited to the summer climate.

Although we are by reputation a race of beer drinkers we should not overlook the virtues of wine at the close of a hard, hot day so here are a couple of ways of taking it lightly.

My putting a generous measure of crushed ice into a long glass and pouring over it a pleasant white or red



MARIA BAILEY MARRIED
DICK HEAPS IN 1907
AND ON RETIRING HE BUILT
THE ISLAND HOME OF HILLCREST
FROM TIMBERS BOUGHT FROM
THE MELANESIAN CHAPEL
AND CONVICT-HEWN STONES
FROM THE RUINS AT KINGSTON.
WHAT BETTER PLACE TO RELAX
OVER A PRE-DINNER DRINK
AND ENJOY A MEAL
THAN IN THE OLD DINING ROOM
DISCREETLY LIT BY CHANDELIER.

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MARIA HEAPS' Restaurant

At the Hillcrest Hotel-Motel; 24 motel units in beautiful gardens overlooking Phillip Island. Brochure available - Box 64

or, if you prefer, a sherry. Sherry is a surprisingly versatile drink and you will not be guilty of a sin of poor taste if you have it as a long drink with soda or lemonade.

Not for a moment would I suggest you uncork your precious old wines nor your special Spanish sherry for this purpose but rather you should use some of the flagons or so-called casks now available. The rising popularity of wines coupled with even faster rising prices has led our winemakers to put some really quaffable material into these larger and consequently more reasonably priced packs.

This leads me on to the observation that some firms in Australia are now advertising their products in casks of up to 60 gallons for home bottling. This was quite an "in thing" a few years back when a bunch of enthusiasts would gather round the backyard pool, sip and bottle (often more of the former) and then finish off the day blissfully with a well-charred steak. Fun though it was however their reds were generally pretty rough.

Those being offered today are more the well regarded products of notable smaller wineries and the idea offers, at reasonable cost, wines well worth cellaring. Perhaps if you gathered a few friends into a club you could make a deal with the Bond, but remember bottling is the name of the game!

Letter from Home

Christmas is an especially exciting time when there are young children in a family. Their "Christmas" time commences either with the Christmas party at the Playcentre or the end-of-term party at the school. The Playcentre party was a huge success this year thanks to Pastor Eric Dronfield and his puppet "Freckles" who kept the children in fits of laughter (especially when Freckles didn't want to go back in his box!) until the sound of the fire engine's siren announced the arrival of Santa Claus. With close on 50 gifts to give out there were a few anxious faces as children waited for their name to be called. Some had to be coaxed towards Santa whilst others had to be held back! Then followed the "eats" with the Mums enjoying the spread as much as the children. It was a lovely morning.

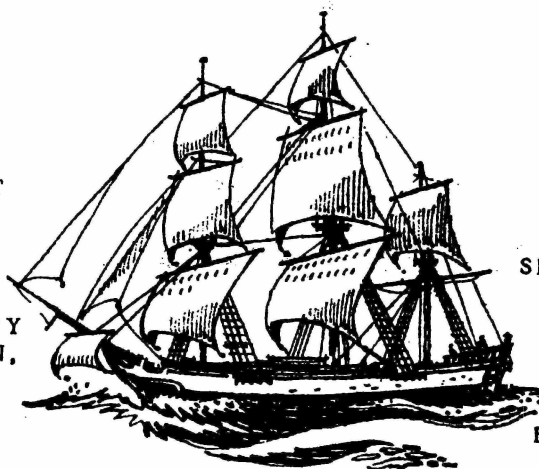
Then about an hour or so later Mums with children in the infants classes at the school called to collect their children who were allowed to leave early after their party. The

children had been allowed to wear party clothes on the last day - they all looked so lovely arriving at school, but they looked quite different by lunchtime! They looked as though they had really enjoyed themselves and that was the main thing.

During the holidays there were several functions for the children - the Lions Club party, the Leagues Club party and parties for the Administration and DCA workers' children. I think that apart from Christmas Day itself, Christmas Eve is an exciting time for the children as they hang up their stockings or pillow cases. Our two boys were very excited - the eldest wanted to leave something for Santa as he said "Santa Claus is nice to us, so we'll be nice to Santa". He chose six carrots for the reindeers and instead of a can of beer for Santa, he decided on three passionfruit which he said would be better for him! The youngest one certainly kept me on my toes with his questions - is there a Mrs. Santa Claus? - does Santa die?

"Eat Thy Bread With Joy and
Drink Thy Wine with Merry Hearts"

SOFT LIGHTS
AND PLEASANT
MUSIC ARE
PART OF THE
ENJOYABLE
ATMOSPHERE
OF THE BOUNTY
LODGE TAVERN,
NORFOLK'S
LEADING
LICENSED
RESTAURANT.
ENJOY CHOOSING
FROM OUR FINE



A LA CARTE
MENU -- AND
ENJOY OUR
ATTENTIVE
SERVICE AT THE
COCKTAIL BAR
AND AT YOUR
TABLE.
YOUR EVENING
"ABOARD THE
BOUNTY" WITH
US WILL BE
COMPLETE AND
MEMORABLE.

BOUNTY LODGE TAVERN

OPEN TUESDAY THROUGH SATURDAY FROM 7PM. TELEPHONE 2019

That's only two of them.

Then comes the really exciting time, the time all children have been looking forward to for many weeks - Christmas morning. I think most children are up out of bed by 5.30am at least, and I know of one young boy who thought he'd "just have a look to see what Santa Claus had brought" at 2.30am! Needless to say he was quite smartly sent back to bed. Our pleasure was to see the look of astonishment by the boys as they saw the carrots had gone and Santa Claus had left behind the empty passionfruit skins! Then the giving out of presents - what a marvellous, happy time it is. I think it's important though that children also realize what they're really celebrating on Christmas Day - as Pastor Dronfield said over the radio - Christmas is unwrapped when we're rapt in what it's all about.

When the children had played with their toys, eaten most of their lollies and spread their wrapping paper over the floor, we packed up our lunch and headed for the beach to spend the rest of the day with our friends. We all set up a make-shift tent, organized some tables and then spread out the food and then everyone helped themselves to some lunch. Everyone always eats too much don't they - and then we spent the afternoon dozing, wandering along the beach, nibbling at the food, and then about 7pm attempting to have some tea! About 9pm we packed up the food, urged some very tired, happy children into the cars and headed off home to bed. What a wonderfully relaxing way to spend Christmas.

Monday, 27th December, 1976 at Emily Bay is a day we shall long remember - the Rotary Club staged another fantastic Beach Carnival! The build-up to the exciting events began with a radio broadcast over the local station VL2NI advertising the many activities which had been planned

and, in between records and news, the announcers crossed over to their "on the spot" reporters at Emily Bay for a description of activities - as early as 8am. The Rotarians were there busily setting up equipment.

In the front of the Beach Carnival Program the Rotary Club gave a short history of the Annual Beach Carnivals, and said that the idea of a Beach Carnival began in 1973 by the local Judo Club -- Rotary hoped that "this day of sunshine and fun should not be allowed to die but become part of a calendar of annual events", and have staged the last two Carnivals.

As most people are aware, Rotary is a service club, one of its main aims being to serve the community. Although their wish was that the Beach Carnival be a FUN day they also hoped that it would be a FUNDS day, as all monies raised are to go towards the completion of the building of the Wives & Mothers Club Playcentre (the Rotary Club's project for the year under the Presidency of Gary Robertson).

The Carnival was officially opened at 10.30am and a display of yachting took place. It's not often we have a chance to watch the skills of the Sailing Club which has not been going for very long but whose members have really done well.

There were all the usual stalls for soft drinks, hot dogs etc. and races for the children. Some of the races were rowing races in rubber rafts; others were obstacle races where competitors had to run along the sand then crawl under one of the heavy rope slings used for the unloading of cargo from ships, then to pick up an article and race back to the finishing line.

Quite the most breathtaking event of the day was a display of skydiving by a young man appropriately called "Skydiver". Whilst the song of the same name was played over the P. A. system "Skydiver" and local Cessna

pilot Ben Morice flew around the Norfolk sky dropping markers to check on wind conditions. The first marker they dropped landed in the sea somewhere between Norfolk and Nepean Islands.

The second marker landed plonk in the middle of the pine trees behind Emily Bay near the golf course.

It was from almost exactly the same spot that this second marker was dropped that "Skydiver" jumped out of Ben's Cessna and I wish I could remember all the comments I heard being made during "Skydiver's" descent. Some said "Oh, he'll never back it" - "Oh, oh, he's going to land in the pines too - what a crazy bloke!" Then when he landed right there on the sand at Emily Bay, maybe only 40' from the target we heard "Wow, isn't that fantastic!"

Then there was the Raft Race - a fun race of craft made from any materials, with a flat deck of at least 8' x 10' and a crew of at least 5.

What an array of fantastic floats there were! One little Honda had its wheels replaced by 44 gallon drums. Others had flat decks attached to 44 gallon drums, flat decks over pointed pontoons, flat deck on tin "cats" filled with polystyrene foam and another made completely of beer cans (empty of course).

As the race began, so did the throwing of rotten eggs, tomatoes and peaches. By the time the first three craft reached home, the "Hillcrest Water Bed" had overturned several times, the Honda had lost its bonnet and the crew had abandoned. Jim Gardner and his crew were the winners -- for the second year I do believe!

Cheerio! ---

Twid

SOLUTION TO "THE NORFOLK CROSSWORD" ON PAGE 29

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ISLAND HOUSEWIFE

AND SO another Christmas is here, or should I say has passed, with the homes "full to bursting" of Island folk who come home to be with their families in their beloved Island, plus one or more visitors in most cases.

As one goes about Christmas shopping and hears joyous greetings and news being exchanged then all the changes in other ways mean little at this time of happy reunions - some

after many years away from Norfolk.

Young men and women, who but a short time ago left as school leavers to learn trades or further schooling and now sometimes hard to recognize at first, greet "oldies" like myself with the same happy style as they do the younger folk -- one of the unchanged ways of Norfolkers.

Time flies all too quickly and once again we are farewelling our loved ones at the airport and the next Christmas seems far away. But is it?

I wonder what changes will take place before then - for better or worse.

My New Year wish -- "Let Norfolk be Norfolk for always, as little unchanged as progress will allow."

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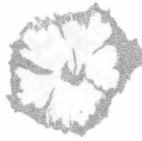
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If you think we may be able to help you please ask us. We appreciate inquiries.

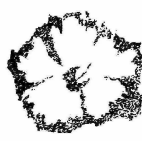


HOTEL

NORFOLK'S LARGEST LOCALLY-OWNED
HOTEL -- A WONDERFUL PLACE TO
STOP, A CHOICE COUNTER LUNCH
AND A LA CARTE DINING ROOM



NORFOLK

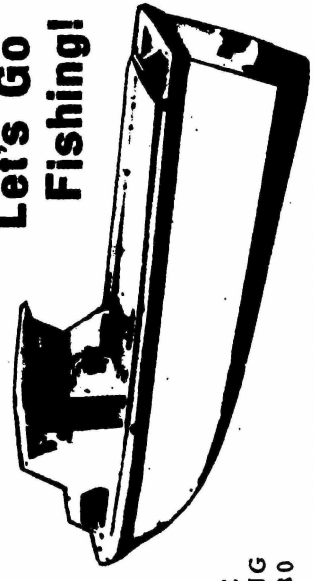


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